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WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



TANGLED UP IN DYLAN

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NATO chief compares Russian military aggression to Cold War as plane intercepts increase threefold

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A 'POWERFUL WAKE-UP CALL'

MINDAUGAS KULBIS/AP

Portuguese and Canadian fighter jets participate in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission over Lithuania on Thursday. NATO aircraft have already intercepted Russian military planes in the Baltics more than 100 times this year, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said at a news conference at Estonia's Amari air base. The figure represents three times as many intercepts as in the previous year, he said.

Immigration order fraught with political hurdles

By KAREN TUMULTY
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The political consequences of President Barack Obama's new immigration plan will probably depend on whether Americans focus on the merits of the policy or on the president's audacious means of achieving it.

Democrats say that Obama's action, which would protect millions of illegal immigrants from deportation, is necessary to keep the

faith of Latinos, the nation's fastest-growing minority and a crucial voting bloc for their party in recent elections.

For Republicans, the move represents confirmation that the president is constantly overreaching, with contempt for the concerns of those who disagree with him. At the same time, GOP leaders worry that an overreaction on their own side — shutting down the government over the immigration issue, for instance — could backfire and raise questions about their capacity to

govern just as they are poised to take full control of Capitol Hill.

A chorus of Republicans on Wednesday accused Obama of behaving like a monarch — or, as Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., put it, “emperor of the United States.”

They pointed to a litany of Obama's own past statements to make their case, noting that he often said there were limits to what he could do in the absence of a comprehensive new immigration law.

SEE IMMIGRATION ON PAGE 11

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I ran for my life. I ran right out the backdoor. My laptop and everything is still in there. It was shock. It was just instinct. You don't think about anything else; you just go."

— Allison Kope, a freshman from Cocoa Beach, Fla., who was in a Florida State University library in Tallahassee when a gunman opened fire early Thursday

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. US flying over Russia to take photos under Open Skies treaty
2. Sick Air Force officer back from Africa being misquoted at Fort Bliss
3. Maj. Gen. Brown set to become AFCEC commander
4. A mysterious Russian space object could be the return of the 'satellite killer'
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COMING SOON

Shifting
Gears

Hot Ferrari marks 60 years in the U.S.



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MIDEAST



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan security forces inspect the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Wednesday.

Taliban attack foreign compound

By CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A Taliban suicide attack on a well-known, heavily fortified foreign contractor compound in Kabul on Wednesday capped a particularly violent several days in the Afghan capital.

A truck bomb was detonated Wednesday night outside the main gates of the Green Village compound, on the eastern outskirts of the city. After the explosion, three gunmen rushed the housing complex, attempting to enter the apartments of foreign workers, Kabul police spokesman Hashmatullah Stanakzai told Stars and Stripes.

The main headquarters of the International Security Assistance Force and the U.S. Embassy, both miles from the bomb site in central Kabul, were placed on security lockdown at the time of the attack.

During the ensuing gunfight, all three attackers were killed by security forces, Stanakzai said.

Two foreign workers and one Afghan security guard were wounded. Stanakzai declined to identify the nationalities of the injured workers.

By Thursday morning, armed guards from the Interior Ministry had secured the location and had begun clearing debris. The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the strike, saying the compound was targeted by the

group's fighters.

Home to a number of foreign workers associated with various international nongovernmental organizations and private contracting firms, the Green Village has been a frequent target for the Taliban. Wednesday night's bombing was the third time in as many years that the secure compound has been hit.

On Tuesday, a car bomb went off at the main gate of the Kabul compound of the Supreme Group logistics company and two gunmen attempted to fight their way inside. That compound is in the same eastern Kabul neighborhood as the Green Village.

The two attackers and two Afghan security guards were killed during that attack. Three civilians were injured.

The dual attacks were the latest in a recent surge of violence in the city, including the attempted assassination of Kabul Police Chief Gen. Mohammad Zahir Zahir by a Taliban suicide bomber on Nov. 9 and another attack last Sunday in which three people were killed when a suicide bomber hit the convoy of Afghan parliamentarian Shukria Barakzai in Kabul.

The attacks come as U.S. and NATO forces prepare to end combat operations in the country and hand over those missions to national security forces in December.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. munoz.carlo@stripes.com

US personnel urged to be cautious ahead of Bahrain election

Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. officials are warning service-members stationed here about increased protest activity ahead of national elections.

Parliamentary and municipal elections are being held Saturday and Nov. 29 throughout the kingdom, which is home to the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet and about 8,200 U.S. personnel and family members.

The Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, Bahrain's main opposition group, has questioned the legitimacy of the elections and has promised to boycott them.

Bahrain has experienced sporadic unrest since February 2011 when authorities crushed the Shiite-dominated opposition movement, which took to the streets to demand greater political rights from the Sunni monarchy.

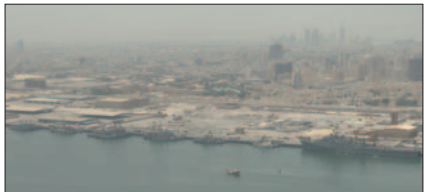
In an anti-terrorism force pro-

tection notice posted on the 5th Fleet's Facebook page, officials also warned to be careful about suspicious packages, tire fires and clashes with police during the pre-election and election days. The message urged U.S. personnel to stay away from polling station areas, which include several popular venues, such as malls, that Americans typically visit.

Bahrain's security officials are expected to boost security around the country during the elections. Security personnel have prepared for various scenarios and will monitor groups and individuals who may try to disrupt the elections, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday in a news release.

On Tuesday, a taxi was gutted in a Molotov cocktail attack in a village in the eastern part of the island. No injuries were reported.

news@stripes.com



MICHAEL SANDBERG/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Navy ships sit in Bahrain in May 2013.

Two Navy supply ships collide in Gulf of Aden

MANAMA, Bahrain — Two U.S. navy supply ships collided in the Gulf of Aden early Thursday, apparently suffering only minor damage, the U.S. Navy said in a press release. No one was injured.

The USNS Amelia Earhart and the USNS Walter S. Diehl were beginning a replenishment operation, when the collision occurred at 5:26 a.m. Both ships are continuing their assigned missions, the Navy said.

The Earhart is a dry cargo and ammunition supply ship, and the Diehl is a replenishment oiler. Both ships are tasked with resupplying U.S. Navy warships at sea that are operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

The 5th Fleet encompasses about 2.5 million square miles of water around the Middle East region, including the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea.

The cause of the collision will be investigated.

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2014 European Christmas Markets & Shopping Guide

Available in
STARS AND STRIPES.
Nov. 26

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www.stripes.com/special-pubs



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Unique markets in Budapest, Paris, Vienna, and more

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MILITARY

NATO chief reassures Baltic allies

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

Touring the Baltics for the first time as NATO's civilian chief, Jens Stoltenberg said Thursday that Russian military activity in the region was reminiscent of the Cold War, noting that the number of intercepts of Russian planes this year had dramatically increased.

Stoltenberg was in Estonia on the first leg of a tour through NATO countries most concerned about the spread of Russian aggression from Ukraine to the alliance's eastern reaches.

The U.S. deployed paratroopers to the Baltics in April, sending a company each to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. NATO and alliance leaders have made regular stops in the region to offer reassurance as Moscow's meddling in Ukraine and aggressive maneuvers on NATO's borders continue.

NATO aircraft have already intercepted Russian military planes in the Baltics more than 100 times this year, Stoltenberg said at a news conference at Estonia's Amari air base. That is a threefold increase over the previous year, he said.

In addition, Russian agents kidnapped an Estonian security officer and buzzed a Canadian warship taking part in a NATO military exercise in the Black Sea in September, causing alarm in the alliance and the region.



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg's flight to Estonia is escorted by a Dutch F16, Thursday.

"It is a pattern which we haven't seen for many years, and it's a pattern which reminds us of the way they conducted these kinds of military air activities back in the time of the Cold War," Stoltenberg said.

"I would say [Russia's] military posture right on the alliance borders has been a very powerful wake-up call for us all," said Estonian Prime Minister Taavi Roivas, who met with Stoltenberg on Thursday.

Stoltenberg, who took over as NATO secretary-general Oct. 1, said his top priority is implementing the action plan alliance members agreed to at a summit in September.

The plan includes building a quick-reaction force capable of deploying within days.

Stoltenberg declined to take a position on France's sale of amphibious assault ships to Russia — a deal that was postponed after the downing in July of a civilian

airliner over an area held by pro-Russia rebels in eastern Ukraine. A group of U.S. lawmakers last month urged Stoltenberg to buy the ships to prevent an alliance member from bolstering Russia's military capabilities.

"NATO doesn't possess, NATO doesn't sell military equipment," Stoltenberg said. "That's something the nations are doing or not doing."

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from
stripes.com

Accommodation and boundaries

What is proselytizing, and what is sharing? Does the context or setting matter? Does rank? Congress heard from several viewpoints Wednesday as it seeks to address Defense Department policies governing religious expression in the military.

Readers respond:

Religion in the military should be "as an individual," don't bring it to work with you.

— parkersd61

Does that apply to other personal preferences that make up a person's definition too? You want an army of robots who just shut up and color with no individual expression who are willing to ignore their constitutional rights?

— asonofSocrates

Problem is, there's no "shutting up" a higher ranking person intent on proselytizing. What's your solution?

— godlessveteran

It's not about constraining people from having a belief or from saying what they believe; it's about constraining them on when, how, and to whom to communicate those beliefs.

— jddj

I had a BN commander try to force all the officers go to his men's prayer group. Keep your superstitions to yourself please.

— flyingsword

If one were to believe everything being said as gospel (pun intended), then that means everyone is being constantly bombarded with proselytizing. Funny thing is, that's not my experience. Guess I'm in a different military.

— Desk Pilot

A good senior leader does NOT force those lower in rank to listen to/participate in that leader's idea of religious information OR against religious beliefs! I don't care if it's an NCO or an O.

— tiredofpc

Lawmakers hear all sides on religion in military

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Religious liberty advocates painted widely divergent pictures of the state of faith in the U.S. military for House legislators Wednesday, with some claiming rampant proselytizing and others complaining that believers are punished for expressing their faith.

The purpose of the hearing by the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee was to examine the effects of recent changes to federal law and Defense Department policies governing religious expression in the military.

The 2013 National Defense Authorization Act directed the DOD to accommodate religious expression as much as possible without damaging the military, and exempted chaplains from performing religious duties if they believe in their faith. The DOD followed up in January with a policy that critics and supporters alike say loosens the reins on religious expression.

Among other effects, the policy change eased the way for a number of religious minorities who believe their faiths require beards, turbans and other types of traditional grooming or dress to receive official accommodation for not meeting uniform regulations.

Retired Navy chaplain Rabbi

Bruce Kahn told legislators that the new policy may also open a door for those inclined to reluctantly try to bring others to their faith.

"Where you have individuals who believe they're on a mission to bring others to their point of view ... then you have cracks in unit cohesion and you have real problems with maintaining readiness and being prepared to go to war," Kahn said.

Religious conservatives who spoke at the hearing said the new legislation and policy is promising, but it's not yet being implemented consistently. As a result, they said violations of religious freedom continue.

"Our concern now is how that guidance is going to be interpreted by those on the field, particularly on the wing level, the brigade level, and their JAGs and how they will interpret that," said Ron Crews, a retired Army chaplain and executive director of the Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty.

Crews related an incident involving a Christian airman in the Ohio Air National Guard whose online article about his religion was quickly removed. Meanwhile, at Moody Air Force Base, Ga., an atheist airman was allowed to write about his beliefs on an Air Force website, Crews said.

"This double standard must stop," he said.

Mikely Weinstein, head of the

Military Religious Freedom Foundation and a vocal critic of what he terms the "Christian Taliban," said the new policy may embolden commanders who "wrongly believe that the First Amendment gives leaders an unrestricted right to proselytize or witness to their subordinates."

Unlike in civilian life, he said, "the subordinate must listen respectfully and deferentially or risk being punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for showing disrespect to a superior."

Courts have said the military may have valid reason to restrict some forms of religious expression, Weinstein said. He recommended severe discipline for commanders who attempt to proselytize their subordinates.

Michael Berry, senior council and director of Military Affairs for the Liberty Institute, said Christians face an "alarming increase in incidents of religious hostility within our military, both in frequency and severity."

He cited cases including an 18-year Air Force member relieved of his duties because, Berry said, he disagreed about his commander on religion. An Army commander (and 24-year service veteran) faced the possibility of career-ending discipline for speaking against what he saw as an unjust religion policy, he said.

The result, Berry said, is a "chilling effect on religious free-

dom and expression that harms our entire military."

Disagreements over the role and conduct of the chaplain corps — which among other things has seen fights in recent years over the propriety of sectarian prayers in mixed groups — also came up at the hearing.

Kahn said military chaplains have a unique duty to serve all, and the needs of servicemembers are more important than a desire for religious expression.

"As a Jewish chaplain, I don't pray in Hebrew or Aramaic when doing so defeats the point of my presence," he told legislators, an apparent comparison with some evangelical Christian chaplains who have argued they have the right to pray in Jesus' name in any setting. "I don't counsel by citing the Talmud when I know that people with me have no awareness of or affection for that source."

Rep. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., said constraining chaplains from saying what they believe is un-American.

"I do not know how we in America can think that we should have control over the conscience of a man of faith, whether they be Jewish, Muslim or Christian," he said. "That is not America, military or nonmilitary."

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Join the fray at:
stripes.com/oe/religion

MILITARY

Autism coverage improves but costs remain a worry

By TOM PHILPOTT

More than 26,000 military families with autistic children are getting better Tricare coverage of applied behavior analysis, or ABA, therapy and related services, which can improve a child's development and quality of life.

But a Comprehensive Autism Care Demonstration that began a slow rollout in late October will still leave retirees and reserve component families facing heavy out-of-pocket costs to provide children with intensive ABA therapy that has become a standard of care, say advocates for families.

Defense Health Agency officials say the demonstration, which is to run through December 2018 and is open to any military child diagnosed with autism, will be a platform for evaluating ABA therapy, a series of behavior interventions, to learn which ones benefit autism patients the most.

Army Maj. Gen. Richard W. Thomas, chief medical officer and director of health care operations for DHA, said ABA therapy is an "emerging science." Just as the military has done for trauma care and other facets of health care delivery, Thomas sees the autism demonstration resulting in "new, innovative solutions to these patients" and discovery of best practices that are safe and effective.

He called the improved autism coverage a "very robust and generous benefit. We can't find anything comparable to it on the outside.... We have the most broad-based, generous benefit for patients with these diagnoses."

A key feature of the demonstration removes an annual cap of \$36,000 on Tricare family coverage of ABA therapy costs. That will allow more children to receive comprehensive treatment levels, typically 25 to 40 hours of therapy per week. The old cap limited treatments to 12 hours per week.

"Families will finally have coverage of prescribed level of care. This is a very important development," said Karen Driscoll, associate director for military relations at Autism Speaks, the nation's largest funder of autism research and advocacy. Driscoll is married to a retired Marine and their oldest son has autism.

ABA therapy uses environmental modifications to produce socially significant changes in behavior of autistic children. It is endorsed by the U.S. Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics and is "the standard of care in the treatment of autism today," Driscoll said.

For the demonstration, DHA combined three autism treatment programs into one, ending separate programs for active-duty families, non-active-duty families and an interim plan under court order that required Tricare to offer ABA therapy as part of its basic benefit. Good riddance to

MILITARY UPDATE

an "administrative nightmare," said one DHA official.

Three different programs delivering the same service in three different ways "was confusing to beneficiaries seeking care, but also to providers, to referring physicians and (Tricare support) contractors," Driscoll said. "So this is a big step to provide a uniform benefit for all those affected by autism."

The program also removes a minimum age limit of 18 months to receive ABA therapy, as suggested by family advocates during a roundtable discussion hosted by DHA. The new program also improves timely access to services by simplifying diagnostic requirements for enrollment.

"I remain concerned about cost barriers that can block access to care for many autistic children," said Driscoll, particularly for non-active-duty families.

While active-duty families are assessed a flat monthly fee that varies by rank under a tiered-services model for ABA therapy, retirees and reserve component personnel face a 10 percent co-payment on ABA costs. That means \$7,300 per year out of pocket for a 25-hour-per-week program and \$11,700 per year for a 40-hour-per-week treatment plan, none of which accrues to the family catastrophic cap.

Copayments associated with other outpatient treatment services do accrue against Tricare caps that limit annual out-of-pocket medical costs to \$1,000 for users of Tricare Reserve Select or \$3,000 for retirees using Tricare.

Because most ABA costs under the demonstration do not accrue to the family catastrophic cap, the cost share structure "may prevent many non-active-duty family members from accessing recommended levels of care," Driscoll said.

She can't guess why autism outpatient services "are treated so differently."

When DHA released more details on the autism care demonstration in September, it sparked outrage among parents for another reason: a proposed cut in payment rate for board-certified behavior analysts performing one-on-one ABA therapy. DHA wanted to cut the rate from \$125 per hour to \$68 for providing day therapy. The higher rate would be paid only when assessing a patient's need or drawing up a treatment plan. Otherwise, rates would fall 46 percent.

Thomas said Tricare periodically must review and adjust reimbursement rates and did so here.

"What we found is Tricare paying well in excess of any others

that were doing similar type work on the outside," he said.

The proposed rate change appears to have been based in part on a recent survey of Medicaid rates for ABA therapy in 14 states, which found board-certified behavior analysts receiving payments that ranged from \$35 to \$125 per hour.

But DHA didn't anticipate the reaction from families. Many said they feared board-certified behavior analysts would drop Tricare patients and scuttle their children's therapy. Driscoll predicted it indeed would affect "thousands of kids."

DHA has shelved the rate change until next April, giving it time to consider a more thorough review of ABA therapy payment rates being conducted by the think tank RAND Corp.

The demonstration has had some startup "kinks," Driscoll said, but senior leadership has been working family advocates and other "stakeholders" to address a variety of concerns. More information on the demonstration can be found online at: www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Autism-Care-Demonstration.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott/Military_Update.

Fort Carson soldier charged in fatal shooting of comrade

By TOM ROEDER

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

A Fort Carson, Colo., soldier has been charged in the fatal shooting of a comrade in Jordan in May, the post announced Tuesday.

An evidence hearing to determine whether Spc. Jeffery T. Page will be court-martialed in the death of Spc. Adrian M. Perkins, 19 of Pine Valley, Calif., was scheduled Wednesday but has been postponed to an undetermined date.

The two soldiers were deployed to Jordan as trainers with the post's 2nd Brigade Combat Team.

The Army had been tight-lipped on Perkins' death, and the announcement Tuesday was the first public acknowledgment that he may have been slain.

The Pentagon attributed the death in Amman as "a non-combat-related injury."

According to court papers obtained by The Gazette, prosecutors allege that Page shot Perkins with an M-4 rifle while the two

were serving at Muwaffaq Salti Air Base.

At the time, the post said Perkins died at a Jordanian military base and the circumstances were "under investigation."

Page, who joined the Army in 2012, has been locked up since July 18 in the case, the charge sheet shows.

Page faces several charges related to the killing, including murder and manslaughter. The breadth of charges is not unusual for military trials, where several charges can be brought to an evidence hearing with just the substantiated counts going forward to trial.

In addition to charges directly related to the killing, Page also is charged with dereliction of duty alleging he "willfully failed to safely handle his M-4 rifle."

Like a civilian grand jury proceeding, the rescheduled hearing will see prosecutors and defense lawyers vet evidence in the case before an investigating officer. Once the evidence is aired, the investigating officer writes up recommendations on how the case should proceed.

If Page proceeds to trial, he could face the most serious charge in military justice.

In military law, premeditated killing comes with a mandatory life sentence, and military prosecutors can seek the death penalty in some cases.



Perkins

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PACIFIC

Japan opens door to shifting some Ospreys

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese officials appear to be laying the groundwork for shifting some Marine Corps Ospreys to the mainland from Okinawa, where some residents have grumbled over their deployment.

At a news conference Monday, Saga Gov. Yasuichi Furukawa said he was willing to accept Japan Ground Self-Defense Force tilt-rotor aircraft at Saga airport on Kyushu island. The Japanese will begin procurement of the first of their scheduled 17 tilt-rotor aircraft — most likely Ospreys — beginning in fiscal year 2015.

The idea of moving a portion of the Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey to the mainland was first requested by Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima in December 2013 and became a campaign issue in the prefectural governor's race earlier this month.

Nakaima's campaign touted that he had negotiated billions of dollars in subsidies from the central government in exchange for his approval of moving Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flight operations to renovated facilities at Camp Schwab — and that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe gave assurances that he was trying to move half of Futenma's MV-22s off Okinawa. However, Nakaima lost Sunday's election to an anti-base candidate.

If shifting the Ospreys elsewhere were to happen, Saga would be a likely destination, should it get facilities built to accommodate the aircraft. Marine Osprey pilots and support staff most likely would be asked to train the JGSDF as well. Furukawa said use of the airport by the U.S. military is not being considered at this time, as he has no information on potential shared use, but rumors have swirled for some time.

The Japanese have courted Saga for deployment of tilt-rotor aircraft because their newly formed Amphibious Rapid Mobile Deployments Brigade — envisioned as a Japanese version of the Marine Corps — is stationed nearby at the JGSDF Ainoura base in Sasebo, a defense ministry spokesman said. Other major JASDF and JMSDF units are based in northern Kyushu.

"I acknowledge that [deployment of the JGSDF tilt-rotor aircraft] would not affect the operations of the airport today ... as well as in foreseeable future," Furukawa said. "I believe that a municipality should basically cooperate with the central government for its security policies."

Furukawa's position was conditional on acceptance by local residents and assurances of the aircraft's safety.

His comments were immediately applauded by Tokyo.

"As head of the Ministry of Defense and the Self-Defense forces, I believe it is a big step forward," Defense Minister Akinori Eto said Tuesday. "It is our duty to make a continued effort to offer an in-depth explanation to gain the acceptance of the Saga prefectural

government and its people."

Ultimately, the decision whether to approve acceptance of tilt-rotor aircraft will be left up to his successor, Furukawa said, although he hopes his commitment will be respected. The third-term governor is expected to leave office soon to run for a seat in the Japan's parliament.

The Marine Corps said Thursday it remain committed to keeping their Ospreys on Okinawa.

In a statement, Marine officials said they would entertain routing the MV-22s through Saga only

for short-term engagements and that they intend to keep their two MV-22 squadrons at Futenma until a replacement facility is operational.

"There is no plan to station the MV-22B Osprey at Saga Airport," Marine Corps officials said in a statement to Stars and Stripes.

"We, the Marines, train and fight as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force," the statement read. "The aircraft which are currently based at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on Okinawa, including the MV-22B Osprey, will be the

same units based at the Futenma Replacement Facility, as they need to be very close to where the ground forces are based. ... The selected location off Henoko, as proposed by the GoJ, is the only viable solution."

Japan's Defense Ministry also released a graphic that seemed to throw water on moving the Marine MV-22 to Saga. The Osprey would not be able to reach all of Okinawa from Saga unless it were able to refuel, which may not be an option under certain contingencies.

Ospreys have become a rallying cry for Okinawan protesters over the years due to several crashes during its development. Despite sporadic incidents involving the aircraft in recent years, its pilots swear by its performance and reliability in combat and in disaster relief operations.

"The MV-22B is a U.S.-Japan alliance asset, enhancing the U.S. ability to assist in the defense of Japan as well as to respond rapidly to natural disasters," Marine officials said.

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PACIFIC

Annual report on China casts bleak image

By MATTHEW PENNINGTON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tensions between the U.S. and China have deepened during the rule of China's president, Xi Jinping, and the risk of an inadvertent military clash in the Asia-Pacific is growing, a congressional advisory panel said Thursday.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission criticizes "unsafe, unprofessional and aggressive" behavior by Chinese military personnel in the past year as the rising power has intimidated its neighbors and challenged decades of American pre-eminence in the Asia-Pacific.

The commission's annual report was drafted before President

Barack Obama visited Beijing last week and agreed with Xi to improve military cooperation to help reduce the risk of a confrontation.

Obama's trip also yielded a breakthrough deal with Xi on combating climate change, seen as a sign that despite their strategic rivalry and differences over human rights, the two governments can cooperate.

Since Xi came to power two years ago, the panel notes U.S.-China relations have been increasingly strained by China's territorial ambitions in the East and South China Sea, where it has disputes with nations including U.S. allies Japan and the Philippines.

"It is becoming clear that President Xi's government is willing



Xi

to cause a much higher level of tension in the bilateral relationship than past administrations have. Unfortunately, China's pursuit

of a more confrontational relationship with the United States likely will persist," the commission says.

Commission Chairman Dennis Shea said that conclusion still held, despite Obama's upbeat visit to Beijing.

Shea said the trip improved the atmospherics between the U.S. and China, but fundamental

problems remain.

He cited continuing Chinese state-sponsored cyberespionage; an increasingly hostile environment for U.S. business in China; and Chinese military modernization aimed at least in part at countering the U.S. military in the Pacific.

The commission advises Congress on the national security implications of the relationship between the two world powers. It doesn't set policy, and Beijing is typically very critical of its findings.

The report says the potential for "security miscalculation" in the region is rising, and that as China increases its military spending by double-digit percentages year after year, the balance of power is drifting away

from the U.S. and its allies.

It notes that by 2020, China could have as many as 351 submarines and missile-equipped surface ships in the Asia-Pacific.

The U.S. Navy, by comparison, plans to have 67 submarines and surface ships stationed or deployed to the region, the report says.

The commission cites several political incidents in which it says Chinese military aircraft and vessels have engaged in risky behavior with Japanese and U.S. forces, which it says could have resulted in the loss of life or a major political crisis.

It cited an incident in August when an armed Chinese J-11 fighter jet passed within 20 to 45 feet of a U.S. Navy P-8 surveillance plane.

Swift nominated for 4th star, to lead Pacific Fleet

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has nominated Navy Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift to become a four-star and be the next commander of U.S. Pacific Fleet, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

Swift is currently serving as Navy Staff director within the Of-

fice of the Chief of Naval Operations at the Pentagon.

If confirmed by the Senate, he will have to deal with a number of challenges, including a rising Chinese navy and the U.S. military rebalance to Asia.

Swift has served as commander of U.S. 7th Fleet and deputy commander of Naval Forces within U.S. Central Command, according to his Navy biography.

He comes from an aviation background, having been commander of Strike Fighter Attack Squadron 97, commander of Carrier Air Wing 14 and commander of Carrier Strike Group Nine.

Swift has seen combat and participated in operations Praying Mantis, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Over the course of his career he has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense

Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Air Medal with Combat V.

He holds a bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and a master's degree from the Naval War College. He received his commission in 1979 through the Aviation Reserve Officer Candidate Program.

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Vice Adm. Scott H. Swift

New leader for Navy's Pac Fleet air forces

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Rear Adm. Troy "Mike" Shoemaker has been promoted and named the next commander of the Naval Air Forces and Naval Air Force Pacific Fleet, according to a Defense Department statement.

Shoemaker will assume the rank of vice admiral and report to San Diego from his current post as commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic Fleet, based in Norfolk, Va., the statement said Wednesday. The appointment was announced by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Shoemaker is a career pilot with more than 4,400 flight hours, mostly in the A-7E Corsair and the F/A-18C Hornet, and 1,066 carrier-arrested landings, according to his Navy biography. He is the previous commander of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group and has been awarded the Air Medal with combat V in addition to numerous meritorious service medals and awards.

He replaces Vice Adm. David Bass, who has held the position since October 2012, according to his Navy biography.

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NATION



Rick Vasquez/Stars and Stripes

Rocking the House (and Senate)

The bust of the late Vaclav Havel, left, the playwright who rose to serve as the first democratically elected president of Czechoslovakia in 41 years, was dedicated Wednesday in Congress' Statuary Hall, alongside presidents and other historic figures such as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Noting Havel's love of American music, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, introduced ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons, center. The Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame member played two brief selections, including altering their hit "I Thank You" with the words, "You didn't have to change it, but you did, but you did, but you did, and we thank you."

Ebola heightens need for orphan assistance

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Ebola epidemic has put adoptions in affected West African countries at a standstill for obvious reasons.

Tessa and Joel Sanborn understand. The arrival of their adopted son, Devine, 5, who is in an orphanage in Liberia, is indefinitely on hold as the state of emergency continues there.

"We love Liberia, and we want what's best for the country as a whole," said Tessa Sanborn, who lives with her husband and their six other children in Maple Valley, Wash., just outside Seattle.

But the waiting is still difficult, as it is for other parents in a similar predicament. And even as some families keep their commitment to adopt despite the Ebola threat, the number of children in West African orphanages who've lost parents is only increasing because of the deadly virus.

Some aid workers also say a shortage of food and supplies is making it difficult to care for those children, and that fear is hampering efforts to place those who've lost parents to Ebola, even within their home countries.

It is just the latest crisis in Liberia, a country that was attempting to overcome the ravages of war before Ebola hit, said Patricia Anglin, executive director and founder of Acres of Hope, a children's aid organization in Liberia that houses many orphans, including Devine.

"Long after Ebola is even eradicated, we will have the devastation and challenges left behind of these orphans who need to be cared for," Anglin said.

Anglin, who is American but is based in Liberia, is in the United States for a month trying to raise emergency funds for food and supplies and to keep her organization going.

Adoptions, while a relatively small part of the organization's services, help fund it, she said. With those on hold, she and her staff have stopped taking salaries and are focusing on relief efforts.

It's difficult because of the scale of the Ebola outbreak to calculate the number of children in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea who've lost one or both parents to the disease. The current estimate is about 7,000, according to Anglin and other aid workers.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Aide: President open to limits on war powers

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration is open to limits on the duration of its military efforts in Iraq and Syria and on the potential use of ground forces in a new war authorization against the Islamic State, a top presidential adviser said Wednesday.

Tony Blinken, President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser, said discussions would continue with Congress on updating the legal basis for the U.S. intervention.

There has been no progress on an authorization in the two weeks since Obama vowed to coordinate with lawmakers on establishing a stronger legal basis for military action. That has prompted growing frustration among Republicans and Democrats with the White House.

Blinken, nominated by Obama to be Secretary of State John Kerry's deputy as the No. 2-ranked U.S. diplomat, was testifying Wednesday at a confirmation hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was asked by the chairman, Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez, of New Jersey, if a three-year limit on operations and a prohibition on a large-scale ground combat mission were reasonable.

Blinken said those conditions would be "appropriate" and could form a "good basis" for the law.

He then told Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., the administration sees a "targeted, focused" law specifically designed for fighting the Islamic State as an important part of building "broad support" on an issue of war and peace. Corker will become the panel's chairman when Republicans take over the Senate majority in January.

The toughest bout of questioning came from Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who asked Blinken if he was wrong two years ago when he said



Blinken

"what is beyond debate ... is that Iraq today is less violent, more democratic and more prosperous, and the United States more deeply engaged there than at any time in recent history."

Blinken said he stood behind his assessment of that time period.

After his party's drubbing in midterm elections, Obama said he'd work with Congress during the current lame-duck session on a new authorization for the U.S. intervention in Iraq and Syria. It reflected that even many supportive lawmakers reject the administration's legal justification based on a 2001 authorization to fight al-Qaida and another a year later to invade Iraq.



Hadi MIZBAN, POOL/AP

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, right, shakes hands with Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu in Baghdad on Thursday. Al-Abadi said Iraq and Turkey have agreed to cooperate in the face of the Islamic State threat.

Iraq, Turkey will cooperate against Islamic State threat

By HAMZA HENDAWI
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister said Thursday that his country and neighboring Turkey have agreed on closer security and intelligence cooperation in the face of the threat posed by the Islamic State group.

"We have a key agreement to exchange information and have full security cooperation," Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi told a news conference after talks with his visiting Turkish counterpart, Ahmet Davutoglu. "The Turkish prime minister also wants us to have military cooperation in the face of terrorism and Daesh and we welcome that," said al-Abadi, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State.

Davutoglu confirmed the two

sides' agreement on closer security cooperation.

"I can say that Daesh threatens both Iraq and Turkey, but we will cooperate and do everything we can to stand up to terrorism," he said.

About a third of Iraq, which shares a porous border with Turkey, is held by the Islamic State. Earlier this year, the group declared a caliphate on the large swaths of territory under its control in both Iraq and Syria.

Relations recently soured between Turkey and Iraq over what Baghdad sees as illegal oil exports through Turkey by its Kurdish self-ruled northern region. Al-Abadi said Thursday the two countries have reached an agreement on the issue but did not elaborate.

He said Davutoglu has made clear to him that Turkey was keen to have "transparent and clear" relations on the oil issue and that Baghdad would be informed of any Iraqi oil exports going through Turkish territory.

Baghdad moved to withhold the 17 percent share of the national budget normally earmarked for the Kurdish region — an estimated \$20 billion — after the Kurds independently shipped oil to Turkey in January.

Negotiations between Baghdad and the semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government yielded some progress last week after Baghdad agreed to release \$500 million in frozen budget payments. In return, the Kurds will provide 150,000 barrels of oil per day for Baghdad to sell.

Beheadings may lead to re-evaluation of ransoms policy

By ADAM TAYLOR
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Last weekend's beheading of Abdul-Rahman Kassig, a U.S. aid worker previously known as Peter Kassig, marked the fifth killing of a foreigner to be filmed and released by the Islamic State. So far, the extremist Islamist group has killed three American citizens and two British citizens in this manner. There is one remaining Western hostage, an American woman.

The nationality of those killed is important. While these U.S. and British citizens were killed, those of other nationalities have been released by the Islamic State. The New York Times has reported that citizens from Italy, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Switzerland, Peru and Sweden are believed to have been freed after ransoms were paid. While most countries

agree, in theory, to not pay money to kidnappers, many covertly do.

The United States and Britain do not. The logic that drives that strategy is being called into question by the brutality of the Islamic State.

On Monday, Shane Harris, of the Daily Beast, reported that the White House may re-evaluate its policy on ransoms. In particular, the White House will review the opposition the U.S. government has shown to families paying ransoms to kidnappers. In the past, Washington has refused to facilitate those payments, and the families of both James Foley and Steven Sotloff, two American journalists killed by the Islamic State — claimed that they were threatened with prosecution by White House counterterrorism officials if they raised money and paid a ransom privately.

That seems to be an acknowledgment that the U.S. policy of paying ransoms is flawed, but it

brings up a worrying question: What would be better?

At its core, the U.S. logic on ransoms boils down to two key factors. First, the idea that paying ransoms gives kidnappers an incentive to kidnap and may compel them to target people of a certain nationality.

Then there's a second, more direct problem. The kidnappers are often extremist groups with violent

agendas in opposition to U.S. foreign policy aims. By giving them a substantial amount of money, you may be helping them to get closer to achieving those aims.

What other option is there for the U.S. government, other than paying or facilitating the payment of huge sums of money?

One option sounds simple: Rescue them. That is far easier said than done. The U.S. government

did try to rescue American hostages being held by the Islamic State in a daring secret raid earlier this year, but it failed.

U.S. officials could also attempt to work out some kind of prisoner exchange deal, like they did with the Taliban in exchange for the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. That method comes with its own risks and criticisms, and may not always be an option.

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NATION

Official says FSU gunman was an alumnus

The Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The gunman who shot three people at Florida State University's library early Thursday before being killed by police was a lawyer who graduated from the school, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The official said the shooter was Myron May, who graduated from Florida State before attending Texas Tech University's law school. The official requested anonymity because he was not authorized to release the name.

May was fatally shot early Thursday after he shot three people at the Florida State library. Two are hospitalized and one has been released.

Abigail Taunton, who runs a

foster home in the Florida Panhandle, told the AP that May had recently been staying at a guest house she owns. She said police interviewed her husband, David, after the shooting.

"He's just a boy our kids grew up with that we let stay in one of our guest houses for a while," she said.

"He's moving back home from Texas and we were trying to help him get on his feet."

The shooting happened about 12:30 a.m., sending hundreds of students who had been up late studying for exams scrambling for cover in the book aisles and barricading themselves with desks.

Three students were wounded before police killed the gunman in a shootout, authorities said.

Police and FSU officials called the shooting an "isolated incident," but have not released many details, including how far May made it into Strozzi Library. FSU's compact campus is located less than a mile from downtown Tallahassee and the state Capitol.

"This person just for whatever reason produced a handgun and then began shooting students in the library," FSU Police Chief David Perry said.

Students inside the multistory library heard about half a dozen gunshots.

Students began screaming that someone was shooting at them and flipped over chairs in their race to take cover.

Tallahassee and Florida State University police confronted the gunman outside the library that



MARK WALLMEISER/AP

Florida State University students Marlee Gil, left, from Key West and Joshua Duck, from Somerset, Ky., gather their belongings on the third floor of the Strozzi library after a shooting there Thursday in Tallahassee, Fla.

sits in the middle of the campus and ordered him to drop his handgun, but he fired a shot at them

and they unleashed a volley of shots, Tallahassee Police spokesman Dave Northway said.

Some in NSA warned of a backlash over surveillance effort

By KEN DILANIAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dissents within the National Security Agency, led by a senior agency executive, warned in 2009 that the program to secretly collect American phone records wasn't providing enough intelligence to justify the backlash it would cause if revealed, current and former intelligence officials say.

The NSA took the concerns seriously, and many senior officials shared them. But after an internal debate that has not been previously reported, NSA leaders, White House officials and key lawmakers opted to continue the collection and storage of American calling records, a domestic surveillance program without parallel in the agency's recent history.

The warnings proved prophetic last year after the calling-records program was made public in the first and most significant leak by Edward Snowden, a former NSA systems administrator who cited the government's deception about the program as one of his chief motivations for turning over classified documents to journalists. Many Americans were shocked and dismayed to learn that an intelligence agency collects and stores all its land-line calling records.

In response, President Barack Obama is now trying to stop the NSA collection but to preserve the agency's ability to search the records in the hands of the telephone companies — an arrangement similar to the one the administration quietly rejected in 2009. His plan, drawing opposition from most Republicans, fell two votes short of advancing in the Senate on Tuesday.

A now-retired NSA senior executive, who was a longtime code-breaker who rose to top management, had just learned in 2009

about the top secret program that was created shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He said he argued to then-NSA Director Keith Alexander that storing the calling records of nearly every American fundamentally changed the character of the agency, which is supposed to eavesdrop on foreigners, not Americans.

Alexander politely disagreed, the former official told The Associated Press.

The former official, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because he didn't have permission to discuss a classified matter, said he knows of no evidence the program was used for anything other than hunting for terrorism plots in the U.S. But he said he and others made the case that the collection of American records in bulk crossed a line that had been sacrosanct.

He said he also warned of a scandal if it should be disclosed that the NSA was storing records of private calls by Americans — to psychiatrists, lovers and suicide hotlines, among other contacts.

Alexander, who led the NSA from 2005 until he retired last year, did not dispute the former official's account, though he said he disagreed that the program was improper.

By 2009, several former officials said, concern about the "215 program," so-called for the authorizing provision of the USA Patriot Act, had grown inside NSA's Fort Meade, Md., headquarters to the point that the program's intelligence value was being questioned. That was partly true because, for technical and other reasons, the NSA was not capturing most mobile calling records, which were an increasing share of the domestic calling universe, the former officials said.

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NATION



DENK GEE, THE BUFFALO (N.Y.) NEWS/AP

A man digs out his driveway Wednesday in Depew, N.Y. The Buffalo area found itself buried under nearly 6 feet of snow Wednesday, and a lake-effect snowstorm on Thursday was expected to dump an additional 2 feet of snow on the region.

Just keep digging: Round 2 in NY

Second lake-effects storm pounds region; weekend warm-up likely to bring flooding

The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — A new blast of lake-effect snow roared through western New York with thunder and lightning on Thursday, raising to nearly 6 feet the three-day total in parts of the Buffalo area.

But even as it strained roofs and stalled daily life, the snow wasn't the only worry. Forecasters warned a rapid weekend warm-up and rain could turn all that snow into floods.

"It's a force of nature, a massive force of nature," Deputy Erie County Commissioner Richard Tobe said during a Thursday morning briefing, where he announced an eighth storm-related death. "We're prepared, but the storm is gigantic and persistent."

Even for Buffalo, a place that typically shrugs at snow, this was a stunning snowfall — the kind of onslaught folks will be telling their grandchildren about.

Those living in the Buffalo area

were already buried under as much as 5½ feet of snow Tuesday and Wednesday, and they awoke to the threat of 1 to 3 feet more. The roving lake-effect band dropped several inches on the city of Buffalo and then pushed into towns to the south, National Weather Service meteorologist David Zaff said.

"When all is said and done, this snowstorm will break all sorts of records, and that's saying something in Buffalo," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said after touring the region Wednesday and talking to truckers who had been stranded more than 24 hours on the New York State Thruway.

The storm came in so fast and furious over Lake Erie early Tuesday it trapped more than 100 vehicles along a 132-mile stretch of the Thruway that remained closed Thursday.

Tom Wilson, of West Seneca, split a Salisbury steak frozen dinner with co-workers and tried his

best to get some rest when he was stuck 36 hours at his warehouse job.

"We tried to make popcorn with a two-by-four, two empty pop kets, some charcoal and a dust pan," he said. "It didn't work."

The storm was blamed for up to eight deaths in western New York, at least five of them from heart attacks. Erie County officials announced the latest death on Thursday, that of a man in his 60s who was stricken Wednesday while operating a snowblower.

Residents of a mobile home park in the suburb of West Seneca were being evacuated Thursday after their roofs began to collapse under the weight of heavy snow.

The NFL's Buffalo Bills offered \$10 an hour plus game tickets for people willing to help shovel out the stands in Ralph Wilson Stadium in Orchard Park, in the snow belt southeast of the city.

Team spokesman Scott Berchtold said the team has an estimat-

ed 220,000 tons of snow to remove from the stadium before Sunday's game against the Jets — more than ever before.

Sunny skies returned to some hard-hit areas Wednesday, but workers were still trying to cart off the acres of snow. Lake-effect snow fell heavily on some northern New York areas east of Lake Ontario.

With an additional 2 feet possible Thursday, the one-week totals for the hardest hit areas will approach the average snowfall for an entire year: 93.6 inches, or close to 8 feet.

It won't stick around, though. With temperatures expected to rise above freezing Saturday and approach 60 by Monday, flooding is likely to produce the next challenge.

The highest snowfall total for the Buffalo area this time was 65 inches, recorded in Cheektowaga.

Morale issues at Secret Service

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The acting director of the Secret Service warned lawmakers Wednesday of "potentially dire consequences" from lowered morale and operational security at the agency. He vowed to do better.

Joseph Clancy offered the sobering assessment in testimony to the House Judiciary Committee, making his first appearance on Capitol Hill since his appointment last month to lead the embattled agency. The Secret Service has suffered a string of embarrassments, including a fence jumper who made it into the White House, which led to the resignation of its previous director.

Clancy acknowledged that the agency has fallen short of its goal of perfection. He said that being in the spotlight has had detrimental effects on employee morale and operational security, "both with potentially dire consequences."

He also offered a mea culpa over the Sept. 19 fence-jumping incident. An internal review last week detailed a string of failures that allowed a Texas Army veteran, Omar Gonzalez, to make it way all the way into the East Room.

"I found the findings devastating. What hits me hardest is the range of shortcomings that ultimately allowed Omar Gonzalez to enter the White House practically unencumbered," Clancy said.

Clancy said he's conducting a top-to-bottom assessment and is establishing new procedures, improving communications and considering other changes, including strengthening the White House fence.

An outside review of the agency also is underway. Lawmakers told him there was no margin for error.

"The Secret Service cannot make mistakes," said Rep. Ted Poe, R-Texas. "You're protecting the president and the president's family; there can't be mistakes."

Clancy also came under attack from lawmakers over wrong information the agency put out about the fence-jumping incident early on, including initial claims that Gonzalez was unarmed and was tackled immediately inside the White House. In fact he had a knife and made it far into the executive mansion.

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NATION

Immigration: Ex-official expects 'wide' anger, 'deep' benefits over action

FROM FRONT PAGE

While there are decades of precedent for executives — both Democratic and Republican — claiming leeway in choosing which immigration cases to pursue, none has applied "prosecutorial discretion" as broadly as Obama was expected to do in a speech Thursday night.

Obama will argue that his policy is simply an acknowledgment of practical reality: that the government's limited resources should be devoted to dealing with the cases that pose the greatest public safety threat, and that Congress itself has failed to act.

A comprehensive immigration bill passed the Democratic-led Senate in June 2013, but the GOP-majority House has not moved on the issue.

In the absence of legislation, "the president is somebody who is willing to examine the law, review the law and use every element of that law to make progress for the American people," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Wednesday. "If that is something that Republicans are critical of, then that's... a criticism that the president wears with a badge of honor."

Politically, Obama has little choice: He had promised for months to undertake this kind of executive action, which will be an

expansion of his 2012 decision to protect from deportation hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the country illegally as children.

"He has boxed himself in completely," said William Galston, a Brookings Institution senior fellow who was a top domestic policy adviser in Bill Clinton's White House. "Politically speaking, there has been a promissory note outstanding for a long time."

Were Obama to fail to follow through, Galston said, he would not only lose credibility, but could damage his party's relationship with Latinos.

"The road to the White House comes through the [Hispanic] community in critical states," said Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J. He added that unless Republicans come up with their own proposal for fixing the immigration system, "they're in trouble."

The public has been largely supportive of a comprehensive overhaul of the immigration system and sympathetic to the idea of creating a pathway to citizenship for the more than 11 million illegal immigrants who are estimated to be living in the United States.

But a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released Wednesday found deep misgivings about Obama's expected executive action. Nearly half of those surveyed



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama was to announce an executive order on immigration in an address to the nation Thursday night.

— 48 percent — said they disapprove of the president acting alone on immigration, and only 38 percent said they approved of it.

Former Housing Secretary Henry Cisneros, a supporter of the president's action, predicted that opposition will fade. Those who benefit, he said, will be grateful for generations — as he said many Latinos feel toward President Ronald Reagan for the amnesty program he signed into law in 1986.

"While the breadth of anger will be wide, the intensity of the ben-

efits will be deep," Cisneros said.

Univision, the widely watched Spanish-language channel, has agreed to delay a portion of the 15th annual Latin Grammys in order to carry Obama's announcement.

Because it is not written into law, the reprieve that Obama grants will by definition be temporary. And Republicans say the action will make it all the more difficult to pass a permanent new law.

"If 'Emperor Obama' ignores the American people and announces an amnesty plan that he

himself has said over and over again exceeds his constitutional authority, he will cement his legacy of lawlessness and ruin the chances for congressional action on this issue — and many others," said Michael Steel, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

Many Republicans noted that Democrats controlled both houses of Congress in the early years of the Obama administration and failed to pass an immigration bill.

"We've gone to the president and said, 'Give us time to do immigration reform, to work on the issue. This year. We want to get this done.' And this is the reaction he has to that?" said Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the 2012 vice presidential candidate. "He had two years with a super-majority of his own party, and he didn't lift a finger. And now he won't give us a few weeks? He's basically choosing to give us a partisan bomb."

But if it detonates, Republicans realize that they could be the ones injured.

"Republicans have to handle this in a sensitive way," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. He warned that any of them who speaks of impeaching the president over immigration would be shunned by most in the party and "considered pretty erratic and pretty excessive."

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NATION

Air travelers find comfort through therapy dogs

By Wesley Brown

The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

AUGUSTA, Ga. — With two scheduled layovers on her daylong flight home to Nevada, Laura DePersia's nerves were on edge as she waited inside Augusta Regional Airport's terminal.

Then along came Gracie, Slider, Sally and Bob.

The four therapy dogs — a golden retriever, a boxer, a Scottish deerhound and an Australian shepherd — soon made her forget that her first flight to Charlotte, N.C., was delayed for nearly two hours.

While petting Gracie's soft coat, DePersia said she could think only about her two golden retrievers — Katie, 12, and Huger, 14 — who were waiting at home for her in Reno.

"This is a great start to my day," said DePersia, 51, who also had a layover in Phoenix. "It makes me feel right at home."

DePersia's distraction from the stress of flying was exactly what Augusta airport officials were going for last month, when they announced a joint venture with volun-

teers from Therapy Dogs Inc. to introduce a new canine ambassador program, Paws for Pax.

Six certified teams from the company's local branch, Jae-Mar-S Academy of Obedience, will rotate each week, roaming the main terminal and gate area of the airport

to spread happiness and entertainment to travelers who might feel tense about flying, said Marlene Stachowiak, a Therapy Dogs handler.

"Our overall goal is customer service," said Gary LeTellier, the airport's executive director. "We felt, what better way to enhance the customer experience than have friendly dogs walking around the terminal greeting people with wagging tails?"

Therapy dogs are often associated with providing relief for traumatic events, comforting patients in the Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home and the Dwight D. Eisenhower Army and Charlie Norwood VA medical centers since 1989.

Volunteers estimate that 20 airports nationwide have therapy dogs to ease air-travel worries heightened recently by the

disappearance of Malaysia Airlines 370 in March and the shutdown of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in July. Besides the fear of catastrophic events, about nine out of 10 travelers surveyed said air travel has become either more of or is as much of a hassle as in the past year, according to a study by the firm ResearchNow for the U.S. Travel Association.

Security lines and checked-bag fees are among the well-publicized headaches, but passengers' No. 1 concern is flight delays or cancellations, according to a news release about the results of the online survey.

"We've found that the presence of therapy dogs is relaxing for people, including air travelers," said Stachowiak, 76, who started participating in the program in 1964 in Europe and Central America. Her current dog is Slider, a 7-year-old boxer.

"Sometimes there's a little longer wait than expected. Sometimes fliers feel so anxious they get here too early and I know from experience traveling with young children that anything is better than saying, 'A little while longer, honey.'"

Stachowiak said each dog is owned by its handler, controlled by a leash at all times and goes through competition-obedience

training and temperament, energy and sensitivity testing before being approved for therapy.

Some dogs are purebreds, but others are rescues, including Sally, a 9-year-old Scottish deerhound who loves treats, tracking and riding in the car.

Mike Quagliano, 67, of Evans, said he got Sally in 2005 from Augusta Animal Services. The 21-year Air Force veteran said Sally breezed through her training.

"I think it's almost as exciting for her as it is for the passengers for her to come to the airport," he said.



Slider



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HOLAHAN, THE AUGUSTA (GA.) CHRONICLE/AP

Top: Marlene Stachowiak, with Paws for Pax, left, stands nearby as Tim Losh pets her dog, Slider, a boxer, during a visit to Augusta Regional Airport in Georgia in October. Above: Maria Figueroa pets Bob, an Australian shepherd. Right: Mike Quagliano and his dog, Sally, a Scottish deerhound, walk around looking for passengers to greet.



WORLD

UN: Killings, displacement rise in Ukraine

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Nearly 300 people were killed since Oct. 18 in fighting which continues in eastern Ukraine despite a cease-fire agreement, United Nations human rights investigators said Thursday.

A new report from the U.N. monitoring team in Ukraine said at least 4,317 people have been killed — up from the 4,042 deaths reported in October — from mid-April until Tuesday.

The number of internally displaced people has sharply increased to 466,829, compared with 275,489 as of Sept. 18, the report said.

Russia, meanwhile, reacted sharply to a U.S. official's comment that Washington should consider supplying weapons to Ukraine.

"We repeatedly heard confirmations from the (U.S.) administration that only nonlethal weapons would be delivered to Ukraine. If there is a change in

this policy, then this is a highly destabilizing factor that could seriously influence the balance of power in the region," said Alexander Lukashevich, spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Tony Blinken, the deputy national security adviser, told a U.S. Senate committee on Wednesday that strengthening Ukraine's forces is "something we should be looking at."

The Obama administration has resisted supplying arms to Ukraine, although there is

broad support in Congress for doing so.

The report released by the U.N. human rights office in Geneva cited allegations of serious human rights abuses by armed groups including torture, detention, executions, forced labor and sexual violence that "are of a systematic nature and may amount to crimes against humanity."

It says the standoff between government troops and pro-Russia rebels battling in eastern Ukraine "is becoming increas-

ingly entrenched, with the total breakdown of law and order and the emergence of parallel governance systems" in Donetsk, the largest city under separatist control, and in the rebel-controlled section of the Luhansk region.

The report warned that treatment for almost 60,000 HIV-positive patients and 11,600 multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis patients could be disrupted by a lack of medicine, which "may lead to the uncontrolled spread of epidemics."

Japanese use technology to engineer bluefin tuna

The Associated Press

TATEYAMA, Japan — Of all the overfished fish in the seas, luscious, fatty bluefin tuna are among the most threatened. Marine scientist Goro Yamazaki, who is known in this seaside community as "Young Mr. Fish," is working to ensure the species survives.

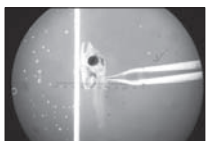
Yamazaki is fine-tuning a technology to use mackerel surrogates to spawn the bluefin, a process he hopes will enable fisheries to raise the huge, torpedo-shaped fish more quickly and at lower cost than conventional aquaculture. The aim is to relieve pressure on wild fish stocks while preserving vital genetic diversity.

Soaring consumption and aggressive modern harvesting methods that have transformed the bluefin from a delicacy into a commonly available, if pricey, option at any sushi bar.

Yamazaki's technique involves extracting reproductive stem cells from the discarded guts of tuna into mackerel fry. The baby fish are put in an anesthetic solution and then transferred by dropper onto a slide under the microscope.

Under the right conditions, the tuna stem cells migrate into the ovaries and testes of the mackerel. The team is now waiting to see if the mackerel, when mature, will spawn tuna, and if the tuna will survive. Following that, they could be released into the sea or farmed.

The research team has already succeeded in using surrogate technology to produce tiger puffer fish and trout spawned by salmon.



A researcher demonstrates how to use a minute needle to insert reproductive cells from a bluefin tuna into a mackerel fry.



Forensic workers remove a body in the village of Cablotales, near Santa Barbara, Honduras, on Wednesday. The bodies of Miss Honduras 2014 and her sister were found buried near the spa where they disappeared a week earlier, according to Honduras National Police Director Gen. Ramon Sabillon.

Miss Honduras, sister slain in jealous fit

The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Honduras — Tears and anger poured out for the dark-haired beauty who was to have flown to London on Wednesday to represent Honduras at the Miss World pageant, only to be found shot to death with her sister on a remote river bank.

After the bodies of the reigning Miss Honduras, Maria Jose Alvarado, 19, and her sister Sofia, 23, were discovered early in the day, police announced that the sister's boyfriend had confessed to killing them last week in a fit of jealousy over his girlfriend dancing with another man.

Dozens of relatives and friends of the beauty queen gathered for a candlelight vigil at the college she attended, remembering a down-to-earth young woman who aspired to be a diplomat, went out without makeup and worked as a model to help support a humble family.

The Center for Women's Rights, based in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa, issued a statement condemning the sisters' killing and slain 328 women have been slain in this Central American nation so far in 2014.

"The case of Mary Jose and Sofia show clearly the situation of generalized violence against women and the nonexistent response of the Honduran government to prevent, investigate or punish it," the statement said.

The bodies believed to be the sisters were found buried near the spa where they disappeared a week earlier while celebrating the birthday of the sister's boyfriend, Plutarco Ruiz.

At some point during the night of Nov. 13, a heated argument broke out over the sister dancing with another man and Ruiz pulled a gun, firing first at his girlfriend and then at Alvarado as she tried to flee, said the National Police director, Gen. Ramon Sabillon. Alvarado was hit twice in the back.

Claudio Cecilio Munoz, an uncle of the sisters, said Ruiz came to the family's modest house on a dirt road the day after the young women disappeared to invite them to lunch, and returned several days to help with the search. He described Ruiz not as a boyfriend, but as someone who was courting his niece.

"We didn't file a complaint right

away because we were waiting for a telephone call asking for ransom," Munoz said. "On Saturday their mother and I went to put in a complaint and the killer was with us."

Ruiz led investigators to the gravesite where he and an alleged accomplice buried them in Santa Barbara, about 240 miles west of Tegucigalpa.

Alvarado's body, wrapped in brown plastic, was loaded into the back of a pickup truck

just hours before she was to have boarded a flight to London to compete in the Miss World pageant. A winner will be crowned Dec. 14.

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Palestinian families get notices for demolition

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli police on Thursday handed home demolition notices to families of two more attackers from east Jerusalem, a Palestinian official said, a day after security personnel destroyed a home there for the first time in five years.

The destructions are a renewed tactic meant as a punitive measure for a wave of Palestinian attacks on Israelis, including a deadly assault on a Jerusalem synagogue this week. Although the tactic has caused much controversy and debate over its effectiveness, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stepped up the demolition orders in an effort to halt the violence.

Adnan Hussein, the Palestinian Authority minister for Jerusalem affairs, said the families of Ibrahim al-Akari and Moutaz Hijazi received the notices on Thursday. An Israeli police spokesman said he was checking the report.

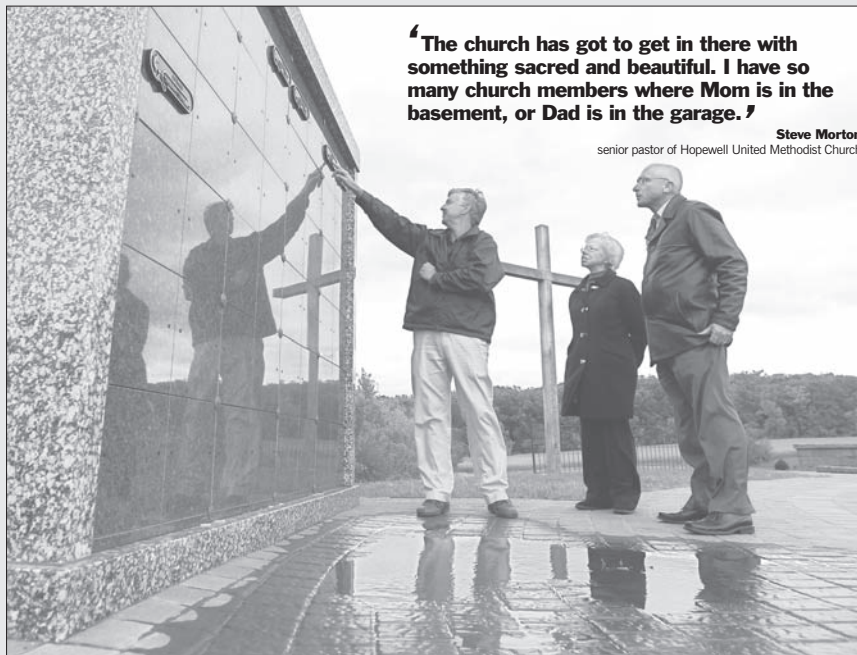
Al-Akari was shot dead by security forces after killing two Israelis earlier this month when he rammed his car into a Jerusalem light rail station. Israeli police also killed Hijazi after he shot and seriously wounded an Israeli activist who has lobbied for greater Jewish prayers to a sensitive Jerusalem holy site in October.

Netanyahu has called for tough action amid a wave of attacks against Israelis. Eleven people have died in five separate incidents in recent weeks — most of them in Jerusalem, but also in Tel Aviv and the occupied West Bank. At least five Palestinians involved in the attacks were killed.

The attacks reached a new turning point Tuesday when two Palestinian assailants burst into a crowded synagogue during morning prayers, killing four worshippers and a Druze Arab policeman with meat cleavers and gunfire.

Meanwhile, the Israeli military said Thursday that militants in the Gaza Strip test-fired rockets into the Mediterranean Sea in an apparent attempt to show off their capabilities.

FAITH



‘The church has got to get in there with something sacred and beautiful. I have so many church members where Mom is in the basement, or Dad is in the garage.’

Steve Morton

senior pastor of Hopewell United Methodist Church

From left, senior pastor Steve Morton, director of lay ministries Debra Boyd and pastor Dan Hepner examine nameplates on the newly constructed columbaria in the Hopewell Cemetery in Downingtown, Pa., in October. Boyd was the first member of the church to purchase a spot in the columbaria — a place to publicly store cremated remains.

MICHAEL BRYANT, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

By MICHAELLE BOND
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Steve Morton read a few years ago that changing religious views, convenience and the recession were leading more people to choose cremation. As the senior pastor of Hopewell United Methodist Church in Downingtown, Pa., he knew he had to respond.

“The church has got to get in there with something sacred and beautiful,” Morton said he and other church officials thought. “I have so many church members where Mom is in the basement, or Dad is in the garage.”

So the church opened a memorial garden and two columbaria last year for the cremated remains of congregants and community members. The church has a long-term plan to build up to four more columbaria, which contain niches to hold urns.

In 2007, about 35 percent of people who died in the United States were cremated, according to the Cremation Association of North America. By 2017, 49 percent will be cremated.

As those numbers have increased, churches big and small have worked to offer attractive options for cremated remains. They are planting memorial gardens for scattering or burying what are known as cremains. They are designing permanent homes of different sizes and shapes for rows of urns. Some churches have made these additions even if they do not have a cemetery for traditional burials.

Different teachings dictate what churches can do with cremains. For example, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia issued revised guidelines to parishes last year

Ashes & ashes

Churches respond to an increase in cremation with columbaria, gardens

about cremation. It said remains cannot be scattered. They must be buried in a cemetery or encased in a columbarium or mausoleum.

Only some Jewish leaders permit cremation. In the Philadelphia area, about 20 percent of Jewish families who use Dignity Memorial's Jewish funeral homes and cemeteries choose cremation, said Eric Wolverson, the Pennsylvania regional president of Dignity Memorial, a national network of more than 2,000 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers.

Churches pass out brochures highlighting beautiful landscaping and natural views they can offer at their cemeteries and gardens. Some gardens even attract members of the community to walk through or sit and read.

The brochures also emphasize that choosing gardens or columbaria is less expensive than burial. The median cost of a funeral in the United States was about \$7,000 in 2012, according to the National

Funeral Directors Association. The average cost of an in-ground burial—including a stone, casket, excavation and burial lot—at Hopewell United Methodist Church is \$16,000. A niche in one of the church's columbaria is \$1,600. Scattering in the garden is \$350.

Many people choose cremation so they can postpone funeral services until family members can travel to the location, said Jim Foreman, manager of Paoli Presbyterians Church's memorial garden.

A brick wall around the edge of the garden there acts as a columbarium. About 150 people plan for their cremated remains to be buried in the church's memorial garden, created in 1991. About 100 more have reserved space within the brick wall around the edge of the garden. The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr has three cremations for every one full-bodied burial in its graveyard, said Jay Einspanier, the church's administrator. Many people have bypassed the indoor

columbarium the church has had for decades in favor of the memorial garden. “It’s just a nicer setting,” Einspanier said.

At St. John's Evangelical Episcopal Church in Phoenixville, church and community members have reserved about half of the 112 niches available in the Columbarium Garden since the garden opened in November. The church of about 700 members plans to start phase II—with 112 more niches—in a couple of years. The third phase will follow.

When Hopewell United Methodist Church officials reserved 15 acres in 1960 for future expansion of the cemetery, they had no idea the expansion would be upward as well as outward, said Arnie Kring, chair of the “cemetery enhancement project.”

Two granite and marble columbaria that each house 96 niches rise up on each side of a memorial garden and a labyrinth made of pavers where people can congregate. Including landscaping and driveway paving, the expansion cost nearly \$130,000.

One of the columbarium niches belongs to Kim and Jim Schywstall, ages 54 and 56.

They are the first in their families to choose cremation. They said they like the affordability and the elimination of the need for family members, who are spread throughout the country, to tend to graves.

“This is a gift for our children,” Kim Schywstall said.

Debra Boyd, 61, recently traded in her burial plot at Hopewell for a niche in one of its columbaria.

“The joke here is that I have the penthouse,” she said. “The top corner facing the east. It’s a beautiful view from that corner.”

WORLD

Ode to toilet: A global crisis

UN uses 15-foot toilet to highlight sanitation woes

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Yes, that was a large inflatable toilet standing outside the United Nations headquarters. Wednesday was World Toilet Day.

Far from a laughing matter, the world body was seeking to draw attention Wednesday to a global sanitation crisis: 2.5 billion people lack basic sanitation services, and 1 billion people — or one in every seven people — still defecate in the open.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a statement that the world has a “moral imperative” to end open defecation so that women and girls are not at risk of rape because they lack a private place to use the toilet.

The campaign to end open defecation has been especially high-profile in recent months, with India's prime minister raising the issue at a U.N.-sponsored concert in New York during the annual General Assembly of world leaders in September. The campaign even printed special toilet paper



MARK GARTEN, UNITED NATIONS/AP

The United Nations sought to draw attention to a global sanitation crisis with a 15-foot-high inflatable toilet and a “Toilets Save Lives!” banner in front of its headquarters Wednesday in observance of “World Toilet Day.”

rolls with statistics and placed them in U.N. restrooms during the meeting.

Children drink water every day that is mixed with their neighbors' feces, according to the campaign. A child dies every 2.5 minutes of

diarrheal diseases due to water contaminated with feces.

The inflatable toilet, 15 feet high, was the latest project. It was taken down Wednesday afternoon because of high winds.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General

Jan Eliasson told reporters Wednesday that sanitation is one area where the world is behind in meeting ambitious anti-poverty goals adopted by world leaders in 2000 with a deadline of 2015, and that needed to change.

Woman suspected of killing her husbands

TOKYO — Japanese police arrested a 67-year-old woman they suspect poisoned her husband late last year, one of about half a dozen former husbands or partners of the woman who have died.

She has denied involvement in the deaths.

Kyoto prefectural police arrested Chisako Kakehi on Wednesday after cyanide was found in the body of her 75-year-old husband, according to Japanese media reports. They were married one month before he died in December 2013, the reports said.

Kyodo news service said that Kakehi had married four times, and that several partners had died within a few years of marrying her or starting relationships with her.

Cyanide has also been found in the blood of a 71-year-old partner who fell while riding a minibike in 2012, Kyodo said.

His death was initially attributed to heart disease.

From The Associated Press



Kakehi



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WORLD

France looks at price disparities for women, men

By LORI HINNANT
The Associated Press

PARIS — Hair salons do it, dry cleaners do it, and so do department stores selling health and beauty products. Now France wants to know why, for some goods and services, women seem to be paying more than men.

The question was first taken up by a group of French activists inspired by a study that found American women overpay hundreds of dollars a year for the same products. The activists persuaded the Economy Ministry this month to launch an in-depth study to determine what price differences exist in France, the reasons behind them and which sectors are most affected. Findings are expected early next year.

A quick look by The Associated Press at haircut prices and store discounts in Paris found some disparities. Haircut: women 43 euros, men 26. Roll-on deodorant: women 2.04 euros, men 1.96. Shaving gel: 2.87 euros in a pink canister, 2.39 in a blue one.

Honestly, like many women I had noticed it and then I moved on to other things," Pascale Boizard, France's minister for women's rights, told The Associated Press in an interview. "It is a fact that this happens in everyday life and with products that are commonly used. These disparities mean that by the end of the year, the sum is not negligible."

New York City and California have outlawed the practice of charging differently for products or services according to gender, and in California companies face fines up to \$4,000.

In France, activist group Georgeette Sand — named tongue-in-cheek after French author George Sand, who used a male pseudonym to be taken more seriously as a writer — is encouraging critics to write in a photo blog of products priced differently according to gender. It now includes entries for painkillers, face lotion, even pepper-spray canisters.

Couple: Hotel charged fee for their bad review

LONDON — A British couple says they were charged 100 pounds, or \$156, by a hotel in northwestern England after they described it as a filthy hovel in an online review.

Tony and Jan Jenkinson told the BBC on Wednesday they were charged by the Broadway Hotel in Blackpool after leaving their comments on TripAdvisor.

The couple says the 36 pound-a-night hotel was a "filthy, dirty,



JACQUES BRINON/AP

French activist Gaele Couraud poses in Paris wearing a pink ribbon. Activists pushed for a study of why women are charged more for some goods and services than men are.

Even the youngest customers are affected — a pink plush bear costs 8 cents more than his blue counterpart.

The group took its cue from a California state government study that found American women on average pay \$1,300 more than men every year for identical products. Consumer Reports found similar disparities in 2010.

"What we're asking for is the end of gendered marketing, that prices be determined not by the sex of the purchaser but by the function of the product or the service rendered," said Gaele Couraud, of Georgeette Sand.

Monoprix, one of the French chains targeted by the campaign, responded by explaining that the price differences had nothing to do with the sex of the customer.

"The differences in price between products referenced for women and men can be explained by their intrinsic characteristics and their sales volumes," the company said in response to a petition signed by 40,000 consumers.

rotten, stinking hovel," and discovered a charge on their credit card after the review. When they asked about it the charge, they were told the hotel had a "no-bad-review policy" included in its terms and conditions.

John Greenbank, a trading standards area manager, said he's "never seen anything like this."

Hotel management could not be reached for comment, but Blackpool authorities say it has changed its policies.

From The Associated Press

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WORLD



CZAREK SOKOLOWSKI/AP

A monument dedicated to the 19th century composer Frédéric Chopin stands in a park in Warsaw, Poland, the country where he wished his heart to be entombed.

Revered heart of Chopin exhumed

By VANESSA GERA
The Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — As Frédéric Chopin gasped for air on his deathbed in Paris in 1849, he whispered a request that became the stuff of musical legend: Remove my heart after I die and entomb it in Poland. He wanted the symbol of his soul to rest in the native land he pined for from self-imposed exile in France.

Ever since, the composer's body has rested in peace at the famed Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris — while his heart has endured a wild journey of intrigue and adulation.

First it was sealed in a jar of liquor believed to be cognac. Then it was smuggled into Warsaw past Russian border guards. Once in his hometown, Chopin's heart passed through the hands of several relatives before being enshrined within a pillar in Holy Cross Church. During World War II, it briefly fell into the clutches of the Nazis. The organ has been exhumed several times, most recently in a secret operation to check whether the tissue remains well preserved.

Chopin's heart inspires a deep fascination in Poland normally reserved for the relics of saints. For Poles, Chopin's nostalgic compositions capture the national spirit — and the heart's fate is seen as intertwined with Poland's greatest agonies and triumphs over nearly two centuries of foreign occupation, warfare and liberation.

Chopin experts want to carry

out genetic testing to establish whether the sickly genius died at 39 of tuberculosis, as is generally believed, or of some other illness. But they remain frustrated. The Polish church and government, the custodians of the heart, have for years refused requests for any invasive tests, partly because of the opposition of a distant living relative of the composer.

This year, however, they finally consented to a superficial inspection after a forensic scientist raised alarm that after so many years the alcohol could have evaporated.

Polish officials kept all details of the April 14 inspection secret for five months before going public about it in September, giving no reason for the delay.

Steven Lagerberg — the American author of "Chopin's Heart: The Quest to Identify the Mysterious Illness of the World's Most Beloved Composer" — said he wishes that the exhumation had involved genetic tests on a small sample of tissue to determine the cause of Chopin's death.

Though Lagerberg and others believe that Chopin probably died of tuberculosis — the official cause of death — the matter isn't fully settled.

"The mystery of this man's illness lingers on — how he could survive for so long with such a chronic illness and how he could write pieces of such extraordinary beauty," Lagerberg said. "It's an intellectual puzzle, it's a medical mystery and it's an issue of great scientific curiosity."

Italian police video shows mobsters in oath ritual

By FRANCES D'EMILIO
The Associated Press

ROME — Recruits for Italy's 'ndrangheta crime syndicate have been caught on video taking a loyalty oath, swearing "under the splendor of the moon," in a ceremony secretly recorded by police in what investigators called authorities' first such glimpse of the ritual.

Carabinieri paramilitary police in Milan on Tuesday released video of what they said were two "convivial" get-togethers of suspected mobsters at a farmhouse in Castello di Brianza, northern Italy, with one recruit as young as 17.

The oath reminds the recruits that traitors are expected to kill themselves and to keep an extra bullet handy in case it comes to that.



CARABINIERI/AP

In this photo taken from a video provided by the Italian Carabinieri (paramilitary police), people identified as Italian crime syndicate 'ndrangheta' members kiss each other in greeting before a secret swearing-in ceremony begins.

Investigators did not explain how they managed to film at the ceremony. Prosecutors said it was the first time authorities have obtained video of an 'ndrangheta initiation ritual. The same investigation led to 38 arrests. The probe concentrated on loans mobsters made to businesses in northern Italy and Switzerland that were

unable to get credit otherwise.

In a separate intercepted phone call, one suspect says to tell someone reluctant to repay money: "I will cut his head off."

Milan prosecutor Ilda Boccassini said the video shows how "the force of tradition" helps the 'ndrangheta, a global cocaine trafficking organization, to thrive.

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WORLD

Japan plans to resume whaling research hunts

By CAROL J. WILLIAMS
Los Angeles Times

Japan informed the International Whaling Commission on Tuesday that it intended to resume hunting whales for scientific research next year, a move that conservationists called a defiance of the International Court of Justice ruling that Japan's whale kills are illegal.

Since the commission invoked a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986, Japan had been claiming an exception to the ban that allows whaling for scientific purposes and had set quotas of 1,035 kills in each of the last few years.

The International Court of Justice ruled in March that Japan's failure to publish results from its purported research demonstrated that its claim of science-related whaling was a cover for banned commercial hunting and ordered a halt.

In the revised program submitted to the commission on Tuesday, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries cut its catch quota to 333 minke whales and said it would no longer hunt the more limited pods of fin and humpback whales.

Joji Morishita, Japan's whaling commissioner, said research findings would be published in the future to comply with the terms of the moratorium exceptions.

"All these activities, as we have been arguing, are perfectly in line with international law, a scientific basis, as well as ICJ judgment language," he told the whaling commission, asserting that Japan's new program to start in late 2015 will be responsive to the court order.

The challenge to Japan's whaling program was brought in 2010 by Australia. The international court, in the Netherlands, ruled that there was no scientific basis for Japan's quotas, nor was there sufficient published findings of its research to justify the size of the projected annual catch.

Conservationists said nothing has changed with the plan submitted by Tokyo on Tuesday.

"Japan's new whaling proposal for the southern ocean sanctuary is neither new nor improved," said Kitty Block, vice president of Humane Society International. "Despite the ICJ decision condemning the nation's so-called scientific program, Japan is still trying to explain the inexplicable and defend the indefensible. The



EUGENE HOSHINO/AP

A man serves a curry dish with whale meat Wednesday to one of a group of lawmakers and government officials who promote whale meat at a dining room of Ministry of International Trade and Industry in Tokyo.

hunt is for commercial purposes — not science."

Although Japan set catch quotas of 935 minke whales and 50 each of fin and humpbacks, its annual captures have been significantly

lower in recent years due to declining demand for whale meat and increasing intervention by protesters such as the Sea Shepherd group. In 2012, Japan caught 103 minke whales and last

year its catch was 251, the Japan Times reported.

Japanese whalers were ordered to suspend operations after the court order, although they plan a nonlethal hunt in the spring.

Center Director- Diego Garcia – South Korea – Japan



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP



ERIC SCHULTZ, AL.COM/AP

Signs of Christmas

Workers hang a new holiday billboard showing Santa Claus taking a drink in Huntsville, Ala.

Floating strip club flourishes near port

AK ANCHORAGE — After a bumpy start, a floating strip club is finding prosperity in the waters off Kodiak.

Darren Byler, owner of Wild Alaskan, a crab boat converted to a strip club, said business has been “wildly successful” in the commercial fishing port.

Customers reach the club by water taxi. A few days after it opened, a complaint that the vessel was overloaded led to law enforcement agencies and the Coast Guard briefly closing the club.

Kodiak City Manager Aimee Kniazowski said the club pays city taxes but operates in state waters. The business charges \$20 per hour as a charter fee and allows only 12 customers on board at a time.

Bicyclist arrested after tussling with police

FL NEWSMYRNA BEACH — An intoxicated central Florida man wanted Taco Bell, but employees wouldn't serve him because he was on a bike in the drive-through lane.

They called New Smyrna Beach police when Gabriel Harris, 33, refused to leave after placing an order at the drive-through window as the restaurant was closing just after 3 a.m. Sunday.

The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported police found

THE CENSUS

8 The number of stories high a new billboard stretches in New York City. The megascreen in front of the Marriott Marquis hotel is billed as Times Square's biggest and most expensive digital billboard. The football-field length screen is at what's known as the “bow tie,” where Seventh Avenue intersects with Broadway. The New York Times says the Universal Everything studio collective will animate the screen until Nov. 24, then Google will take over as the debut advertiser.

Harris still sitting on the bicycle at the speaker. As officers asked him to leave, they spotted a Swiss Army knife on his belt loop. An officer reached for the knife, but Harris grabbed his wrist. The officer wrestled Harris to the ground and arrested him.

Judge delays repeated ex-mob boss' sentence

PA PHILADELPHIA — The reputed former Philadelphia mob boss who was ordered back to prison for violating his parole won't have to start his sentence until January.

The Philadelphia Daily News reported that Joseph “Skinny Joey” Merlino won't start his four-month prison sentence next week for failing to report an encounter he had with a former co-defendant.

Merlino has been living in Florida after spending about a decade behind bars following a 2001 racketeering trial. As part of his release, he's not supposed to have contact with fellow mobsters.

Merlino told the judge he just happened to bump into John “Johnny Chang” Ciancaglini in June and forgot to report it.



AP

Police: Woman used small child to steal

RI LINCOLN — Lincoln police are looking for a woman they say used a small child to help her steal from a customer at Target.

WJAR-TV reported the woman directed the child to steal a stroller with an infant car seat and diaper bag that was left unattended briefly at the store on Nov. 11.

Police said the woman and child walked out of the store with the items.

Body cameras for police OK'd despite veto vow

MD BALTIMORE — The Baltimore City Council has passed a bill to make city police officers wear body cameras despite the mayor's promise to veto it.

The bill would require officers to wear audio and video recording devices and comes in response to officer-involved shootings in the city.

In an editorial in The Baltimore Sun, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake said that though “well-in-

tentention,” the legislation didn't address privacy concerns and how data collected by the cameras would be stored or include an estimated cost for maintenance.

Ring flushed down toilet is returned to family

CA UNION CITY — Sanitation workers have reunited a San Francisco Bay Area family with an heirloom diamond and sapphire ring that their 3-year-old son flushed down the toilet.

After several attempts, Union Sanitary District crews found the ring last week, about a month and a half after it disappeared from Munazzar and Mehvish Tapal's Union City home. Wastewater Collection Supervisor Shawn Nesgis said the ring traveled about one-third of a mile.

More charges filed in shooting spree case

IA DES MOINES — Additional charges have been filed against a man accused of randomly shooting people in a Des Moines suburb.

Court records show Pete Jason Polson, 32, now faces several drug charges, including possession with intent to deliver. He remains at the Polk County jail under \$840,000 cash bond.

Polson already faces several charges in connection with a Monday morning shooting in Pleasant Hill, including two counts of attempted murder. Police said he injured two men and shot at a third in separate incidents.

Interstate lanes reopen after cattle truck crash

KY FRANKFORT — Authorities have reopened most lanes on Interstate 64 in central Kentucky after a truck hauling cattle overturned.

Lanes in both directions were initially closed after about 15 cows got loose.

The Franklin County Sheriff's Office said the trailer was carrying about 110 head of cattle. Some were killed in the crash and at least one was killed when it was hit by another vehicle.

School to accept food items to settle tickets

DE NEWARK — The University of Delaware is offering people who've gotten parking tickets on campus a way to get out of paying their fines while helping those in need.

Beginning Monday, the university will allow parking citations to be paid for with nonperishable food items. Each food item will count as \$5 toward the cost of a parking ticket less than 30 days old.

The food drive will run through the end of the semester on Dec. 12. From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Thanksgiving dinner cost up slightly

The Associated Press

Giving thanks will be a little costlier this year, but — and here's something you can be truly thankful for — it probably won't empty your wallet.

The price for putting Thanksgiving dinner on the table is expected to rise slightly this year, clocking in at \$4941. That's 37 cents higher than in 2013.

For that, you can blame dairy products, coffee and that all-important marshmallow-topped

sweet potato casserole, according to the annual informal survey of consumer grocery prices performed by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

The group found that the price of dairy — as in milk for the mashed potatoes and whipped cream for the pies — collectively jumped 25 cents over last year. Miscellaneous ingredients, such as coffee, sugar and eggs, account for another 28 cents, while 3 pounds of sweet potatoes jumped 20 cents.

The good news is that a drop in fuel prices won't just make it cheaper to drive to Grandma's house for the big meal, it also helped keep down the cost of some ingredients.

Flour-based foods, such as stuffing mix, pie shells and dinner rolls, will run about 21 cents less than last year, likely due to energy cost savings by the processors, said John Anderson, the Farm Bureau's deputy chief economist.

The group estimates the cost of

Thanksgiving dinner by averaging nonsale food prices around the country based on feeding 10 people a meal of turkey, bread stuffing, sweet potatoes, rolls with butter, peas, cranberries, carrots and celery, pumpkin pie with whipped cream, and coffee and milk.

Their estimates account for needing leftovers.

And here's something to consider: Though this year's cost is up, it's still 7 cents lower than in 2012.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 21)	\$1.2867
Dollar buys (Nov. 21)	€0.7772
British pound (Nov. 21)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Nov. 21)	¥114.00
South Korean won (Nov. 21)	₩1,082.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.5715/0.6363
Canada (dollar)	1.1304
China (Yuan)	6.1235
Denmark (Krone)	5.9289
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.2554/0.7965
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7560
Hungary (Forint)	242.85
Israel (Shekel)	3.8419
Japan (Yen)	118.01
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2913
Norway (Krone)	6.7560
Philippines (Peso)	45.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7519
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3903
South Korea (Won)	1,112.38
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9579
Thailand (Baht)	32.83
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2440

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonmilitary exchange rates (i.e., check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	1.5
Federal funds market rate	0.11
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.08

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.197	\$3.391	\$3.573	\$3.964
Change in price	-4.7 cents	-4.6 cents	-4.5 cents	-1.6 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.174	\$4.443	\$4.450
Change in price	---	-5.2 cents	-4.8 cents	-1.0 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.361	\$4.056	\$3.934
Change in price	---	-4.6 cents	no change	-1.6 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.686	---
Change in price	---	---	-2.1 cents	---
Turkey	---	\$3.372	\$3.75	\$3.827
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Italy	---	---	\$3.948	\$4.445
Change in price	---	---	-1.2 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.428	---	---	\$4.466
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.359	---	\$3.749
Change in price	---	-4.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.979	---	---	\$3.749
Change in price	-22 cents	---	---	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.010	---	\$3.399	\$3.789
Change in price	-5.0 cents	---	-4.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.009**	\$3.199	\$3.389	---
Change in price	-5.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-4.0 cents	---

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MARKET WATCH

Nov. 19, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	-2.09
Nasdaq composite	-26.73
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.08
Russell 2000	-12.60
	1,157.89

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlington, Tex.	67	55	Cldy	Chatanooga	55	36	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	25	19	Pcldy	Louisville	68	33	Cldy
Atlanta, Ga.	70	55	Cldy	Chicago	51	28	Pcldy	Fresno	62	49	Cldy	Lubbock	65	43	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	44	33	Cldy	Cincinnati	28	26	Cldy	Goodland	50	25	Pcldy	Macon	63	36	Cldy
Albuquerque	54	33	Cldy	Cleveland	26	21	Snow	Grand Rapids	24	15	Cldy	Medford	50	46	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	35	17	Cir	Colorado Springs	54	25	Pcldy	Great Falls	42	31	Cir	Memphis	55	47	Cldy
Amarillo	61	37	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	57	30	Cir	Green Bay	41	21	Cir	Miami Beach	77	71	Cir
Anchorage	35	29	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	63	41	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	46	26	Cir	Midland-Odessa	70	48	Pcldy
Asheville	48	28	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	57	29	Cir	Harrisburg	32	21	Cir	Milwaukee	26	22	Cir
Atlanta	58	37	Cir	Concord, N.H.	32	16	Cir	Hartford	32	16	Cir	Minneapolis	26	25	Pcldy
Atlantic City	36	20	Cir	Corpus Christi	80	69	Cir	Helena	41	27	Pcldy	Missoula	37	32	Cir
Austin	61	37	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	71	40	Cir	Honolulu	84	71	Cir	Mobile	84	71	Cir
Baltimore	32	23	Cir	Dayton	26	21	Cir	Houston	74	62	Cir	Montgomery	66	42	Cir
Baton Rouge	71	51	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	72	60	Pcldy	Huntsville	54	39	Pcldy	Nashville	51	41	Cir
Biloxi	46	28	Pcldy	Denver	32	17	Pcldy	Indianapolis	31	27	Cir	New Orleans	70	58	Cir
Birmingham	60	43	Pcldy	Des Moines	34	31	Cir	Jacksonville	68	45	Pcldy	New York City	37	26	Cir
Bismarck	38	22	Cldy	Detroit	27	18	Pcldy	Jacksonville	65	52	Cir	Newark	38	25	Cir
Boise	34	24	Cldy	Duluth	21	10	Cldy	Juneau	42	34	Rain	Norfolk-Va.	40	30	Cir
Boston	36	24	Cir	El Paso	66	44	Cir	Kansas City	40	38	Cir	North Platte	47	21	Cldy
Bridgport	38	23	Cir	Elkins	28	13	Cldy	Key West	79	73	Cldy	Oklahoma City	61	50	Cir
Brownsville	80	69	Cir	Erie	29	22	Snow	Knoxville	51	31	Pcldy	Omaha	36	28	Cir
Buffalo	24	19	Cldy	Eugene	52	48	Rain	Lake Charles	73	55	Cldy	Orlando	74	60	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	28	17	Cldy	Evansville	40	27	Cir	Lansing	40	37	Pcldy	Paducah	45	41	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	26	9	Cldy	Fairbanks	10	-10	Cir	Las Vegas	62	45	Cldy	Pendleton	45	41	Cldy
Casper	43	28	Cir	Fargo	20	10	Cir	Lexington	37	29	Cir	Penn	33	29	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	62	38	Cir	Flagstaff	43	21	Cldy	Lincoln	38	29	Cir	Philadelphia	36	24	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	36	23	Pcldy	Flint	25	17	Pcldy	Little Rock	56	48	Rain	Phoenix	70	50	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	50	28	Cir	Fort Smith	57	48	Rain	Los Angeles	70	55	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	25	18	Cldy

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
 Hi: Wed., 77, at Esinore, Calif., and Yuma, Ariz.
 Lo: Wed., -12, Lucerne, Wyo.

WEEKEND



'Dragon Age:
Inquisition'

Page 26



KATNISS IS BACK

The Hunger Games become a propaganda war in 'Mockingjay — Part 1'

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WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Company RE-invents camera

By BRIER DUDLEY
The Seattle Times

This is shaping up to be a fun holiday season, at least from the gadget perspective.

In addition to the usual phones, computers and games, we have an armful of smartwatches, Amazon.com's talking speaker and a quirky L-shaped camera from HTC.

I'm guessing that the camera, called the RE, will be a surprise hit.

I say surprise for several reasons. First, people don't really need another camera since most are carrying phones that take pretty nice pictures nowadays.

But the RE's unusual design stands out. It also does surprising tricks while extending the photographic capability of a smartphone.

The RE — the name is supposed to suggest "re-imagining" your camera — can be used as a handheld camera. It turns on when you grip it, and has buttons to capture 16-megapixel stills or 1080p video with its ultra wide-angle, 146-degree lens.

It gets more fun when you use the RE as a sort of remote, wireless lens for your phone. You can put the RE across the room or on stage during a recital and use the companion phone app as a viewfinder and shutter button.

Or you can put the camera on a shelf and have it take time-lapse photos throughout an event. The pictures can be stored on the RE's memory card or the camera, and then synced with cloud storage services.

"We like to think this is a natural progression for HTC," said Nigel Newby-House, HTC's executive director of product planning. "We've always been doing innovation on cameras,"



HTC/TNS

RE's unusual design stands out among lookalike electronics.

GoPro makes cameras with similar capabilities, but they're designed for "adrenaline junkies," said Nigel Newby-House, HTC's executive director of product planning, while the RE is lighter and more accessible to average users.

Newby-House said part of the inspiration was to let people capture events without being glued to their phones, the way he was during the crucial moments of his daughter's ninth birthday party.

"I realized I was the idiot standing at the back desperately trying to frame this with my cell phone," he said. "We want to get people away from that and back into the moment again."

A software update in the works will enable the RE to broadcast live events on YouTube. For instance, you could put the camera on stage during a child's recital then send links to the grandparents so they could view the event live on YouTube.

I'm looking forward to using the RE during a party or an interview to see how it works autonomously, taking time-lapse photos.

The software may also be updated to allow remote control via the Internet, so you could use the RE as a security camera or to check in on a pet or a pot of soup simmering on the stove.

HTC claims about 1.5 hours of battery life when continuously filming, but it's offering an accessory dock to keep it plugged in.

GADGET WATCH

Garmin products loaded with features

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

If Garmin could, the company would control the gas and brake pedals in addition to doing an amazing job of getting you where you want to go.

I tried out the company's latest GPS unit, the Nuvi 2699LMT, and again I wondered how Garmin could possibly make a better GPS unit than the previous — but the company always seems to.

Front and center is the company's latest zoom high-resolution display on a matte black body. This allows you to get a zoomed-in look at a specific area, just as you do with most smartphones.

Without the boring specifics of the resolutions how many pixels it has, rest assured that the clarity is amazing.

It's also built with dual orientation so it can be positioned in portrait or landscape position.

The unit contains seemingly endless features. Among those catching my attention was the Garmin POI database, which is integrated with the Foursquare app. Right out of the box, it's loaded with North America maps, including free lifetime updates.

Other features include voice commands, on-screen speed limit indicator, smartphone link and Bluetooth technology to use the GPS for handsfree calling with its built-in speaker and microphone.

Route avoidance is always great if you'd like to skip specific routes such as those with toll roads. It has an internal battery good for about an hour, but most people will use it with the included car adapter.

The Garmin Nuvi 2699 weighs 9.5 ounces and measures 3.7 by 6.6 by 0.76 inches.

Online: Garmin.com; \$269

Kwikset Kevo is a great-looking deadbolt door lock, and comes with a set of standard keys to unlock it.

That might not sound exciting, but consider that you can unlock the door without ever using the keys whether you're right in front of it or on the other side of the country.



TNS photos

The Kwikset Kevo deadbolt allows you to lock or unlock a door with Kwikset's iPhone app, whether you're right in front of it or miles away.

I'm a big fan of electronic gadgets that require very little setup and little or no written instructions. The Kwikset doesn't fall into that category since it does require installing the lock, loading an app and testing everything, but it's still a great device.

Since the safety of my home being locked or unlocked was in stake, I did read the instructions ahead of time and kept a key in my pocket from the start.

The lock installation seemed to be like the few others I've installed, but what you don't have to mess with is the Bluetooth technology built into the lock.

Once installed along with four AA batteries and the Kwikset's iPhone app, you're ready to go keyless.

You'll also have to calibrate and sync it so it recognizes your device when you're nearby. This part is pretty tricky, but the instructions are easy to follow.

Once everything is hooked up, a small LED surrounds the lock and lights up different colors for different features.

For example, green means the lock has been opened, and red means it didn't lock.

The eKey feature allows you to send a key to a friend, repairman or even the in-laws at an unexpected visit.

Kwikset eKeys can be programmed for one-time use or even daily use with specific days and times.

Hardware included the deadbolt lock, a pair of standard keys, a single FOB and AA batteries. The app is free along with two anytime eKeys and unlimited guest eKeys.

A recent software and firmware update has brought in many new features, including an Android Lollipop version.

For iOS devices, users of the iPhone 4S and higher, including the new iPhone 6 and 6Plus, will work with the Kevo lock system.

Online: kwikset.com; \$199.99, available in brass, nickel and venetian bronze



Garmin's Nuvi 2699LMT GPS offers dual orientation, voice commands and on-screen speed limit indicator.



ON THE COVER: Jennifer Lawrence plays Katniss Everdeen, heroine of the masses, in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1."

Lionsgate

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for Nov. 19:

1. "1989," Taylor Swift
2. "FOUR," One Direction
3. "Sonic Highways," Foo Fighters
4. "The Endless River," Pink Floyd
5. "Ther's Christmas To Me," Pentatonix
6. "Caddisillac," Big K.R.I.T.
7. "In the Lonely Hour," Sam Smith
8. "Nick Jonas," Nick Jonas
9. "Montevivo," Sam Hunt
10. "Hozier," Hozier

— Compiled by Tribune News Service

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify for Nov. 10-16:

1. "Take Me To Church," Hozier
2. "Animals," Maroon 5
3. "I'm Not The Only One," Sam Smith
4. "Love Me Harder," Ariana Grande
5. "Habit (Stay High)," Jove Lo
6. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
7. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
8. "I Don't Know What You Do," Big Sean
9. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
10. "Cool Kids," Echosmith

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for November 19:

1. "22 Jump Street"
2. "Tammy"
3. "Let's Be Cops"
4. "Maleficent"
5. "If I Stay"
6. "Palo Alto"
7. "How to Train Your Dragon 2"
8. "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes"
9. "A Most Wanted Man"
10. "Frank Miller's Sin City: A Dame to Kill For"

— Compiled by Tribune News Service

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 handheld games for November:

1. "Super Smash Bros.," Nintendo 3DS
2. "Velocity 2X," PlayStation Vita
3. "Danganronpa 2: Goodbye Despair," PlayStation Vita
4. "Professor Layton vs. Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney," Nintendo 3DS
5. "Azure Striker Gunvolt," Nintendo 3DS
6. "Theatrhythm Final Fantasy Curtain Call," Nintendo 3DS
7. "Metrico," PlayStation Vita
8. "MouseCraft," PlayStation Vita
9. "Tales of Hearts R," PlayStation Vita
10. "Shantae and the Pirate's Curse," Nintendo 3DS

— Compiled by Tribune News Service

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Nov. 19:

ANDROID

1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2
2. Dirt Trackin'
3. Rooster Teeth vs. Zombies
4. Pulling USA
5. Civilization Revolution 2

Top 5 paid apps for Nov. 19:

APPLE

1. Five Nights at Freddy's
2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
3. Heads Up!
4. Afterlight
5. Geometry Dash

— Compiled by Tribune News Service

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Let 'Mockingjay' tracks take you dark, deep

Whether to get into the proper mood for the latest "Hunger Games" movie, or to marinate in the moody atmosphere while you wait for the final film, "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1" soundtrack will not disappoint. Lorde's contribution to "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" was so spot-on, the New Zealand chanteuse was given the task of selecting all 14 songs on "Mockingjay." Other artists on the impressive list of contributors: Charli XCX, Chvrches, Kanye West (mixing Lorde), Grace Jones and the Chemical Brothers. One reviewer calls it "a particularly excellent goth-dance mix tape."

• **Album review on Page 37.**



Lorde has worked her dark magic on the "Mockingjay" soundtrack.

AP

2

Watch Heigl's return to serious television

When you last saw Katherine Heigl, it was probably in a forgettable romantic comedy. But remember when she starred on "Grey's Anatomy"?



The actress is ready to return to TV, this time as a CIA analyst who has the heady job of briefing the President.

• **"State of Affairs" airs Tuesdays on AFN-Prime. The pilot episode will air again Monday on AFN-Family.**

3

Kill enemies, time with latest 'Dragon Age'

Got a few days to kill? We've got just the thing. "Dragon Age: Inquisition" is a rich, colorful video game full of adventure, but there's no speeding through this medieval world. Fortunately, the story and characters make the trip worth your time. The side quests are so fun, you might just forget your original mission. So don that helmet, heave that broadsword and get started.

• **Review of "Inquisition" on Page 26.**



4

Give thanks for Tiny Hamster videos

And now, your weekly dose of internet-shatteringly adorable, just in time for the holiday: A chef in a Pilgrim hat serves a fluffy bunny and three rodents, also in (much smaller) Pilgrim hats, a full Thanksgiving dinner. Which is cuter: Watching cuddly critters stuff bitty goodies served on poker chip plates in their cheeks, or seeing the human cook agonize over making the mini-meal just right? It's up to you. (An eyedropper is critical to basting a wee turkey, in case you were wondering.)



• **Watch the video at tinyurl.com/lvcasab9.**

WEEKEND: MOVIES

By JOCELYN NOVECK
The Associated Press

Setting down to interview Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth, stars of the blockbuster "Hunger Games" franchise, feels a bit like hanging out with three siblings.

While Hutcherson ponders a question, Lawrence and Hemsworth are surreptitiously playing a game of hand-slap, Lawrence pulling her hand free just in time. When one of the guys says reflectively, "Maybe I was just an idiot," Lawrence pipes up: "Yes, you ARE an idiot!" There are giggles, and a totally inside joke involving the phrase "My ears hurt," spoken in baby voice. (Don't ask.)

"I met my best friends in the world on this movie," Lawrence says, turning serious, of Hutcherson and Hemsworth. "We love each other. They're as close to me as my family, and in some ways they ARE my family."

Lawrence, who plays Katniss Everdeen for the third time in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1," is known for being a straight shooter — and not just with a bow and arrow. And so when she talks about her co-stars, it sounds refreshingly nothing like canned Hollywood-speak, in which everyone professes how it was SO great working with everyone else.

Instead, the 24-year-old Oscar winner explains how she, Hutcherson and Hemsworth (22 and 24 respectively) grew up together on set over the past several years — and became famous together, though Lawrence's star has risen the fastest.

"We all have the actor thing in common where we left home very early — I left home when I was 14," Lawrence says. "And our lives changed together in a way that nobody else in the whole world understands."

In fact, she says, just the night before, the trio attended a dinner — exhausted — and sat for the first half entirely silent, like families sometimes do. "People were thinking, they must not really like each other," she says. Chuckles Hutcherson: "Yeah, they're thinking it's all an act!" Adds Hemsworth: "You've got to be really close to not talk at all."

Promoting the third film in the Suzanne Collins trilogy — filmmakers have split "Mockingjay" in two parts — has brought back familiar questions about parallels between the characters and the actors who play them. Katniss and Peeta Mellark (Hutcherson) are both thrust into dizzying fame in the first "Hunger Games" when they're chosen to represent District 12 in the fight-to-the-death spectacle forced on them by the Capitol, ruled by shadowy President Snow (Donald Sutherland). In the third movie, along with Gale (Hemsworth), they each figure in different ways in the rebellion spreading through the country of Panem.

"I always get kind of nervous when people make parallels," says Lawrence. "Katniss led a rebellion that changed the world, and I'm just an actor telling people I need more lipstick or whatever."

She does, though, understand why people latch onto the "reluctant fame" idea, since she herself initially hesitated before accepting the role that catapulted her to global fame.

"We all had an idea of how big this was going to be, which is why I took a few days before I said yes, and really thought about what I wanted," Lawrence says. "Saying yes to this was going to completely change my life."

Hutcherson says he was oblivious. "I had to say I didn't expect any of it," he says of sudden stardom.

"You're not as paranoid and neurotic as me," Lawrence quips.

Lawrence, who has spoken bluntly and forcefully about privacy concerns, feels her co-stars need to be more security-conscious. "I recently changed my number and texted them, 'Hi boys,' and they answered back blah blah and didn't even ask a security question!" she says, in mock disapproval.

"But I knew it was you," protests Hemsworth. "Nobody else would text us, 'Hi, boys!'"

returning: Philip Seymour Hoffman, who died in February, as Plutarch.

"He was incredible," says Lawrence. "It was so funny because we just don't take anything seriously on set ... and Phil was always so thrown by that. He said he'd never seen such a flippant set before." Eventually, she says, "we broke him down, and forced him to be as unprofessional as us."

Each actor, asked their biggest take-away from the "Hunger Games" experience, mentions the same

Friends for



'Mockingjay' stars reflect on growing up together



"Mockingjay," directed by Francis Lawrence (no relation), brings back most of the starry supporting cast — Woody Harrelson, for example, as a rehabbed Haymitch Abernathy; Stanley Tucci as the flamboyant Caesar Flickerman; and Elizabeth Banks as the colorful Effie Trinket (with an expanded role, but also a much less colorful revolutionary wardrobe). Also

things: Exposure, job opportunities, and especially friendship.

"Just having them in my life is one of the greatest gifts I've ever been given," Lawrence says.

"I couldn't have said it better myself," says Hutcherson.

"I know," replies Lawrence. "That's why I went first!"



From left, Liam Hemsworth, Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson reteam in "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1," the third in a series of four sci-fi dystopian action-adventure films.

DREW GURIAN, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES



PHOTOS BY MURRAY CLOSE, LIONSGATE/AP

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1” finds Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) in District 13, where she fights to save Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) while a nation is moved by her courage. Liam Hemsworth, Julianne Moore and Woody Harrelson co-star.



Lawrence at her best in ‘Mockingjay’

BY CARY DARLING
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

“**T**he Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1,” the first installment in the last chapter of the popular franchise, is all coil and no release. It’s a taut, dark portrait of a universe upended by revolution, one where the flashy bread-and-circuses of the first two films have been replaced by anger and despair.

If it’s more talky and less satisfying than its predecessor, the propulsive “The Hunger Games: Catching Fire” — largely because the conclusion won’t come until next year with “Part 2” — it’s still a sporadically involving adventure.

As the movie opens, the nation of Panem — the future country where the story takes place — is in an uproar. In the wake of the act of defiance at the end of “Catching Fire” from Hunger Games champ Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and her well-placed arrow, everything is falling apart. The districts, where the working-class and the poor are consigned, are in revolt. District 12, from which Everdeen hails, has been destroyed. Even the Capitol, the elite beating heart of an evil empire that forces its young people to compete in its deadly Hunger Games, is in trouble.

Katniss has been taken in by rebels in District 13 including President Alma Coin (Julianne Moore) and gamesmaker Plutarch Heavensbee (the late Philip Seymour Hoffman), from the last film, who turned out to be a radical in establishment disguise.

Their mission is to rain down blows against the empire, though

Katniss has her own personal mission of trying to save her fellow tribute and games partner Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson), someone she grew to love. He remains in the Capitol and is being used by the government in a media propaganda war against the those involved in the rebellion, including Katniss. She thinks he’s being forced into being a mouthpiece; others, such as her old friend Gale Hawthorne (Liam Hemsworth), think he has just sold out.

It’s this tug of war between the Capitol, run by the always-plotting President Coriolanus Snow (Donald Sutherland), and the upstarts in District 13 that gives “Mockingjay” its tension. Unlike the previous two films, where the running of the games provided much of the momentum, there isn’t much action in “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1.” Still, the plot machinations promise things will get back to good old mano a mano in the next film.

Working from a script by Peter Craig and Danny Strong, director Francis Lawrence, who also directed “Catching Fire,” manages to keep things moving. And there are moments that rise above being a mere setup: a rebel incursion into a darkened Capitol, in which our heroes descend like fireflies against a black sky, is intriguingly suspenseful, while the issues of political control and media manipulation — at one point, rebels are executed after having hoods placed over their heads — bear obvious correlations to our own world.

Lawrence delivers her best “Games” performance here as Katniss struggles to make the transition from player to power broker, from a woman who can’t bear to leave her boyfriend

behind to fronting an uprising. And make no mistake, this is Lawrence’s movie, even more than the other films.

Providing what few hints of comic relief there are is Elizabeth Banks as the formerly flamboyant Effie Trinket, the woman who is the overly stylish chaperone for the District 12 games players. Now living in the more austere and spartan surroundings of District 13 — where

Katniss’ boozy mentor Haymitch Abernathy (Woody Harrelson) bemoans the lack of alcohol — Effie can only dream of her previous sartorial glories.

But her fashion options fit “Mockingjay’s” mood — gray and grim. For the conclusion, she, and the audience, could do with a pop of color.

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1” is rated PG-13 for violence. Running time: 125 minutes.

‘Hunger Games’ stars recast roles

The Associated Press

Quick — If they were doing a “Hunger Games” remake, who should play the leading roles?

We recently posed the question to the franchise’s three young stars — Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth — and they came up with some entertaining answers.

Hemsworth, aka Gale Hawthorne, boldly going first: “I’d probably want Melissa McCarthy to play my part. (Laughter all around.) I just think she’s great and she would bring so much honesty and truth to the role.”

Lawrence, aka Katniss Everdeen, upping the ante for her character: “I feel like Keanu Reeves



McCarthy



Johnson



Hoffman

or Dwayne ‘The Rock’ Johnson could really bring the strength that I was lacking, and the agility. (Eager nods of approval.) But if I were going female I’d go with Bette Davis. And I guess the obvious choice would be Shailene Woodley. She’s proven that she could do it.”

Hutcherson, aka Peeta Mellark, trying to be more contemplative about who’d fill his role: “I would choose young Dustin Hoffman, if it’s possible to go back in time. As in, ‘The Graduate’ or ‘Marathon Man.’”

Hemsworth, sneaking one in at the buzzer: “Wait — I think Jim Carrey could also really be great as Gale.”

New on base

“The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1” is at:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Bamberg Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano and Vicenza.

Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: thehungergamesexplorer.com/us/epk/mockingjay-part1

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Gone Girl (R) Sat 13:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1 (PG13) Thur 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, Fri 15:30, 17:00, 18:00, 19:45, 21:30, Sat & Sun 13:30, 15:00, 16:30, 18:00, 19:30, 21:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 14:30, 16:30, 17:30, 19:00, 20:15, Mon & Tue 16:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:30, Wed 16:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:30

Interstellar (PG-13) Thur 17:00, 20:00, Fri 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, Sat 15:45, 19:00, 22:00, Sun 15:45, 19:00, Mon - Wed 17:00, 20:00

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Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



A colorful tale full of adventure

'Inquisition' will captivate players



By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

The best medieval sagas are filled with valiant heroes, magic and intrigue. They also tend to be long. "Dragon Age: Inquisition" fits nicely into that mold.

BioWare's latest fantasy role-playing game depicts a rich and colorful tale filled with adventure. The story picks up a few years after the action in "Dragon Age II," expanding on many of that game's themes and bringing back some of its central characters.

In the intervening years, mages have risen in rebellion against the Templars, a military order that was created to monitor and control magic users. At a conclave involving leaders of both sides, an otherworldly blast kills many of the attendees and leaves your character with a glowing green mark on his—or her—hand. Of course, everyone suspects you're to blame for the blast, and for all of the demons that have started pouring through green tears in the interdimensional fabric known as the Veil. Things look pretty grim until you discover that your mysterious green mark can actually close these tears and send the demons packing.

Although many remain skeptical, others greet you as a potential savior, and it's not long before you're put in charge of the Inquisition, a powerful new group established to deal with this nasty mess.

But before most of this unfolds, you'll need to create your avatar. The character creation system is deeper than the previous game. You can select from three classes: fighter, mage and rogue, with the latter having the option of focusing on the bow or the blade. You can choose whether to play as a human, elf, dwarf or K'unari, an imposing race of horned warriors. You also are given a great deal of control over the appearance of your avatar's face. You can manipulate his or her face into almost any configuration imaginable.

However, other options are limited. Hairstyle options are few and there are only two choices for voices for each gender. But that's probably understandable when you consider the mindboggling amount of dialogue the game offers. Notes from the developers state there are 80,000 lines of dialogue totaling more than a million words.

The script isn't the only thing big about "Inquisition." The world is immense. The developers' notes say that the first territory you visit covers more digital ground than "Dragon Age: Origins" and "Dragon Age II" combined. And there are many other regions you will visit, including deserts, forests, snowy hills and dank bogs. The size of this world and the number of missions and quests required to fill it have a major impact on gameplay. But more about that in a moment.

While this might sound impressive—or intimidating—what really has set the "Dragon Age" franchise apart from other fantasy RPGs are the story and characters. They were superb in "Origins," and they were pretty good in the sequel, even though "II" has its critics. "Inquisition" delivers a story that's enthralling, with plenty of drama, tragedy, excitement and—if you complete the right quests—romance. And true to BioWare's tradition, you must periodically make key decisions that will affect the course of the storyline and the fates of

some of your companions. And these tales unfold in a world that's rich in history and filled with fascinating cultures that rarely play nicely with each other.

It is also packed with interesting characters. You can gather up to nine traveling companions and each has a story to tell and several side quests to offer. This offbeat assortment of adventurers provides most of the game's comic relief. When not swinging swords or flinging bolts of electricity, they usually banter and bicker—especially if you take along the young elfen wench who seems to be afflicted with Tourette's Syndrome.

With all of this activity, the game offers dozens of hours of gameplay. I saved quite a few quests for a second playthrough and still clocked in at 59 hours. And don't



think you can cut it short by simply following the main thread in a sprint to the end. Before you can tackle a primary mission in the storyline, you must unlock it by spending "power" points. You earn these points by completing quests and performing heroic deeds. However, you'll need many more points than you can gain while moving along the storyline, which means you'll need to spend a lot of time wandering the countryside in search of side quests. While this can be a lot of fun, it can also dilute the story after a while. The effect is like that in the similarly sprawling world of "The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim." The more side quests you pick up, the more the storyline fades into the background.

The gameplay is similar to that of the preceding games in the series. You spend lot of time talking to nonplayer characters. And you spend a lot of time fighting.

When engaged in conversation, you are usually offered several questions to ask or statements to make. Some are assertive, some are snarky, and some are heartfelt. The tone of your interactions determines how other characters—primarily your companions—respond to you. In most cases, you're simply gathering information. But at key points, your response will be a matter of life and death for another character.

When you encounter an enemy, there's little talk aside from belligerent taunts. You travel with up to four companions at a time and can direct the actions of each adventurer in combat.

You have two basic options.

Concentrate on one character's actions and let the others fight on autopilot. Or you can pause the action and micro-manage each character's movements and attacks.

The layout of the attack and defense controls is very logical and efficient, so the action usually feels very fluid.

Overall grade: **A**

A major battle can be quite impressive with swords clashing, fighters yelling and colorful spells zinging across the screen.

The graphics are pretty good, but definitely not perfect. People and settings are beautifully rendered. However, characters' animations are a bit wooden and visual glitches aren't uncommon.

The game's biggest snags occur during dialogue sequences. It wasn't unusual for certain characters to temporarily stall in the middle of the conversation.

The game earns its mature rating for violence, a few profanities and brief, partial nudity during the romance scenes.

"Inquisition" also offers an interesting multiplayer mode. Four teammates crawl through a dungeon taking on all comers. The biggest difference between a co-op battle and a regular mission is that you can't control the actions of your companions, which can be good or bad depending on who you're paired with. Experience and loot you gain builds up your multiplayer character but doesn't affect the main campaign.

In almost every category, "Inquisition" stacks up well against its major competition—"Skyrim." And in the key categories of story and character, it's far superior.

Bottom line: A "Dragon Age: Inquisition" offers an epic tale and exciting action that will keep you enthralled for days.

Platforms: Xbox One, PlayStation 4, PC
Online: dragonage.com

A cataclysmic event plunges the land of Thedas into turmoil. It's up to you and your allies to restore order as you lead the Inquisition and hunt down the agents of chaos in "Dragon Age: Inquisition."

Photos courtesy of EA



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



KEYSTONE/AP

Sorry, ladies, it's not for sale. "Mardi Gras" (2013) by Italian artist Gianluca Tamburini is part of an exhibition called "History Under Your Feet — 3,000 Years of Shoes" at the Toy Worlds Museum in Basel, Switzerland. Held in collaboration with the Northampton Museums and Art Gallery in England, home to the world's largest collection of historical shoes, the exhibition shows more than 220 pairs of historic and artistic shoes from the past 3,000 years.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Indie music in Utrecht

Utrecht, Netherlands, makes a good bet for lovers of indie music through Sunday, as established bands and up-and-coming acts perform across 15 venues, from clubs to churches and art galleries, at the festival known as Le Guess Who?

Utrecht, a hip student city just a half-hour train ride from Amsterdam, welcomes more than 80 groups and solo acts during the festival's four-day run. Headliners include Autechre, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Dr. John & the Nite Trippers and St. Vincent.

The festival offers several subsections: "Mouth to Mouth" is a program highlighting artists who are best when performing live, and "Fuzzland" focuses on garage rock. New this year is the 24-hour Dronefest, a nonstop odyssey of sound, complemented by installations, beginning Saturday at 11:30 p.m. On Saturday afternoon, Le Mini Who? will transform the neighborhood around the Voorstadt into a festival in its own right, with acts performing in venues from record stores to old cellars. Entrance to all shows in this part of town is free.

Festival passes go for 100 euros (about \$124); Friday and Saturday day tickets cost 35 euros, and a Sunday ticket goes for 30 euros. A 24-hour Dronefest ticket is available for 30 euros. Learn more at



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

<http://leguesswho.nl/>

Films in Amsterdam

Through Nov. 30, Holland's capital hosts one of the world's largest celebrations of documentary films. The International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam offers a program of about 300 films and typically attracts more than 200,000 viewers.

IDFA is made up of seven competitions, noncompetitive programs, awards and several themed sections: "Of Media and Men" investigates the interaction between people and their governments; "The Female Gaze" explores the position of female directors in the documentary industry; and "Framing Reality" focuses on people playing themselves on camera.

Film viewers have their own say with the IDFA audience award, in which they cast ballots rating a film from "hopeless" to "superb." The highest-rated film will win 5,000 euros in cash.

Primary screening venues are located around the Rembrandtplein. A variety of passes are available from 105 euros plus VAT. It's also possible to buy tickets to individual films on the event website or at the box office. Learn more at idfa.nl.

Autumn fair in Stuttgart

Craft lovers might want to head to the Stuttgarter Messeherbst, or autumn fair, running through Sunday at the city's trade fairgrounds. One of its several sections is titled "Kreativ," offering a place for crafters to pick up materials or fresh ideas. Visitors will also find a gallery featuring painters, sculptors, photographers and graphic artists and workshops.

Other sections highlight games, models, electronics and articles for babies and their parents. "Eat & Style" offers food tastings, tips from top chefs, decorating ideas and more.

The fair is open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult entry costs 12 euros (about \$15) and includes tickets for public transportation to reach the venue. See messe-stuttgart.de/kreativ/aussteller/auf-einen-blick.

SAVE THE DATE:
St. Moritz Gourmet Festival

The St. Moritz Gourmet Festival bills itself as "the connoisseur festival with cult status." From Jan. 26-30, the upscale resort in Switzerland's Oberengadin region seeks to transform into a gourmet paradise with a "British Edition" hosting celebrity British chefs — Wolfgang Puck, Yoshihiro Takahashi, Tim Raue, Christian Scharer, Andree Köthe, Mauro Colagreco, Yoann Conte and Moshik Roth — plus the chefs of each of the festival's eight participating hotels.

Guests will have the opportunity to dine on the chefs' culinary creations in events ranging from five-course dinners to Gourmet Safaris, in which BMW automobiles will shuttle them to tasting venues.

Booking for events starts Dec. 1. See stmoritzgourmetfestival.ch.

A chef prepares desserts at the 2014 St. Moritz Gourmet Festival. Courtesy of swiss-image.ch



DO THIS:

See Mussolini's air raid shelter

A Roman villa's wine cellar, which was converted into an air raid shelter for Benito Mussolini and the Italian dictator's family, has opened its anti-gas steel doors to tourists.

The shelter was constructed in 1940 after the outbreak of World War II in what had been the wine cellar of a noble family, who lived there before Mussolini took up residence during his Fascist rule. Rome now owns the villa.

Visitors can see the iron-rung

ladder used for an emergency exit and an apparatus to purify air in case of a gas attack, according to archaeologist Giuseppe Granata. A later-constructed, reinforced-concrete wartime bunker under the villa also can be toured.

One-hour guided tours cost 7 euros and must be booked in advance. Call 347/3811874, email bunker@sterraineditoria.it or visit bunkerdiroma.it/villatorlonia (in Italian).



ANDREW MEDICINI/AP

Tourists may now visit Benito Mussolini's first air raid shelter, created in an old wine cellar in Rome, for 7 euros.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Dubious discipline

Naughty students once served easy time in university prison

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

Young people, it seems, are often preoccupied with the idea of "trouble." As they define it, the word can refer to any number of things: an after-school detention, a temporary loss of smartphone privileges or just a parent's general air of disappointment. But for a set of alumni from Heidelberg University in Germany, "trouble" had a very specific meaning: prison.

Through the early 1900s, a miscreants' row of ill-mannered young menaces logged time in the university's Studentenkarzer, or student prison. In the 1700s, the prison was moved from its location under a staircase to the upper floor of a dingy walk-up around the corner from the institution's more respectable places of learning. Though it hasn't been used for its original purpose in more than a century, the well-preserved facility now welcomes a new class of trouble-makers: tourists.

A handy English-language information sheet helpfully explains how the university came to hold such authority. From its inception in 1386, the document reads, Heidelberg University "exercised legal jurisdiction over its students." When a student was accused of a crime, often by city law enforcement, the university held a hearing and determined a sentence.

According to this endlessly fascinating information sheet, common offenses included engaging in unregulated fencing duels and using a stick to knock off the hat of a policeman. Such criminal acts usually earned the perpetrator a student-prison stint ranging from 24 hours to a full month.

Convicted students were assigned to one of the prison's small rooms, each outfitted with a bed, a desk, a chair and a heater.

Given the rather benign nature of their crimes, the student prisoners didn't suffer much further punishment. They were excused to attend classes, as long as they returned to the prison immediately when class was over. After two days of bread and water, they were permitted to order outside food and beer. And they were allowed to read, write, draw and even play card games, which in the days before movies and the Internet is probably about the best anyone could hope for in their free time anyway.

But what the students mostly did was decorate the walls of their temporary homes. They scrawled messages, drew cartoonish figures and, in what became the prison's signature



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

Silhouettes of student prisoners adorn the walls at the Studentenkarzer, or student prison, at Heidelberg University in Heidelberg.



A discarded cap lies atop an old student desk at the prison.

aesthetic achievement, traced silhouettes of the heads of fellow prisoners. The ghostly images of these students, all long since dead, are a poignant visual centerpiece among the sea of scribbles and rudimentary art-work.

As with every attempt before or since to control the raging inappropriateness of college students, the student prison eventually was overwhelmed by the sheer force of youthful irreverence. In short, students began committing petty crimes for the express purpose of spending a reputation-boosting evening or two in the prison.

Tourists today don't have to provoke fencing fights or prank the Polizei to gain entry to the Studentenkarzer. Just wander a few meters off the main Old Town drag and hand over a few euro coins. It's well worth the trouble.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes



Students who stayed in the prison passed the time scrawling messages on the walls.



A sign points the way to the student prison.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

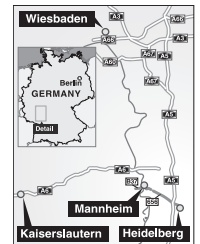
The address of the the Studentenkarzer, or student prison, is Aug-ustiner-gasse 2, in the heart of Heidelberg's Altstadt (Old Town) district. Park in the Altstadt parking garage directly beneath the famous Heidelberg Castle and walk down Hauptstrasse to Universitatplatz. Buy tickets in the university museum and you'll be directed around the corner to the prison entrance.

TIMES

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the rest of the year. The prison is open daily, while the museum and Great Hall are open Tuesdays through Sundays.

COSTS

Three euros for admission to the prison, the University Museum and Great Hall, all of which occupy the same expansive structure. There is a 50-cent discount



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

for students and seniors. Children under age 8 enter free.

FOOD

You're in the midst of one of Germany's most well-worn tourist strips. You should be able to find something.

INFORMATION

Heidelberg's tourism website: tourism-heidelberg.com.

— Gregory Broome

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

A guide to turkey labeling

By RUSS PARSONS
Los Angeles Times

Once upon a time, buying a Thanksgiving turkey was easy. You went to your neighborhood grocery store and picked up whichever frozen bowling ball they were selling. No more. Today, a grocery might sell as many as a half-dozen types of turkey.

What's the difference between frozen and fresh? It's not as obvious as you think. And then you've got organic, free-range, pastured and heritage birds.

Here's a quick guide to some of the definitions.

• **Free-range:** This is a legal definition that requires that the birds be raised having access to the outdoors. They don't need to have access to grass, just the outdoors, which can mean dirt or gravel.

• **Fresh:** Legally, it means that a turkey has not been chilled below 26 degrees. Practically speaking, though, a 26-degree turkey is still about as soft as a bowling ball.

• **Frozen:** This means that the turkey has been chilled to 0 degrees. It should be noted that this doesn't necessarily mean an inferior bird. Properly frozen, stored and defrosted, it can be excellent.

• **Hard- or deep-chilled:** An intermediate step that means the turkey has been chilled to between 0 and 26 degrees.

• **Heritage:** Birds that retain historic characteristics that are no longer present in the industrial-produced white turkey that is common today. Heritage birds are considered to be more healthful. They tend to be leaner, with less meat, which means they won't feed as many people and will dry out more easily. They also have a gamier flavor.

• **Kosher:** These are turkeys that have been slaughtered and cleaned in accordance with kosher law. Koshering requires salting for only one hour before rinsing, which is not at all the same as brining for several days.

• **Natural:** No added ingredients and only minimal processing, no injecting flavors or brining.

• **Organic:** Raised without hormones or steroids or processed without preservatives. In addition, they're given only organic feed and have ready access to the outdoors.

• **Pastured:** A nonregulated definition that means the birds have had access to grass.

• **Self-basting:** The familiar supermarket turkeys that have been injected with flavor solution or brine to keep them from drying out.



This torte featuring almonds is one of the most expensive offerings at the shop, where an espresso and a pastry cost only a few euros.



These traditional Neapolitan desserts, like some other specialties, take the better part of two days to produce.



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Some of the pastries at Pasticceria La Dolce Mania are as much a feast for the eyes as the taste buds. The pastry shop is the highest-rated restaurant on the Trip Advisor site for Pordenone.

After Hours: Italy

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

There are more than 130 "restaurants" listed on the Trip Advisor website for Pordenone, Italy, a city of about 80,000 people just a short drive from Aviano Air Base.

The highest rated is a pastry shop: Pasticceria La Dolce Mania.

While Italy is known around the world for its cuisine, it's the main courses — and not the last one — that are generally the best received. In the land of pizza and pasta, desserts are often treated as an afterthought.

And — other than perhaps gelato, and maybe tiramisu — the eyes tend to have a better time than the tongue. Unlike their American peers, Italian bakers seem to listen more to their dentists when creating sweet treats.

So we just had to investigate a pastry shop getting top billing in Pordenone — home to more than a handful of very good restaurants.

PASTICCERIA LA DOLCE MANIA

Address: Via Vallona 9, Pordenone, Italy

Times: 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3-8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sundays. Closed Mondays.

Costs: Pastries, cakes, tortes and pies ranging from about 80 euro cents to 25 euros (\$1 to \$32); mini pizzas sold by the

kilo and occasionally other savory offerings. Espresso costs 1 euro. There's also cappuccino for 1.40 euros. A bottle of spumante costs 8 euros, a bottle of prosecco 9 euros or two bottles of red wine 2.90 euros. **Attire:** Casual.

Menu: In Italian. Might be confusing as some of the products

are priced individually, with others priced by the kilogram. Not much English spoken.

Customers: Local Italians, with an occasional outsider lured in by Trip Advisor.

Information: Telephone: (+39) 0434-26630; email: pasticceriaaldolcemaniam@gmail.com

— Kent Harris

Shop owner Giuseppe Sorrentino is from Naples. He moved his family north at the invitation of a former boss, who wanted Sorrentino's baking skills. In 1999, Sorrentino decided to open his own pastry shop.

Pasticceria La Dolce Mania can be found a few blocks from the main pedestrian area in town.

Sorrentino, who doesn't speak much English, laughs and shrugs when asked about the Trip Advisor rating. He says it must be the quality of the baked goods and

customer service.

That customer service was noticeable during a recent visit. The place is small, with only a handful of stools and a counter for people to quickly down an espresso and/or a pastry.

Sorrentino offers everyone a quick smile, greeting many of his customers by name.

It's clearly a neighborhood hangout with plenty of return customers.

The shop doesn't just offer those pastries most associated with Naples. But it has plenty of those for sale.

Sorrentino is the main baker. He arrives at 5:30 each morning, more than two hours before the shop opens, to produce the sweets behind the counter.

A few specialty items take the better part of two days to produce. Not everything is that complex. A few others take only an hour or two to make.

Sorrentino's not divulging his recipes, but he seems to include more sugar than many of his peers up north.

Though it's possible to get only one item — for about a euro or so — many customers seem to want more. They pick and choose, and Sorrentino or his son, Emanuele, puts the selections together on a small paper tray and weighs

them. In most cases, it's possible to fill the tray with goodies for about 5 or 6 euros.

Does La Dolce Mania rate as the top place to eat in Pordenone? That's for you and your sweet tooth to decide.

Harris.kent@stripes.com



Pasticceria La Dolce Mania specializes in pastries traditionally produced in Naples. But it also has takes on desserts from other areas of Italy, such as these cannoli that are most famously produced in Sicily.



If cookies are more your thing than pastries, Pasticceria La Dolce Mania has Italian versions of those as well.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Hiking wild Norway

Dovre fjell National Park offers raw nature, few tourists and hut-to-hut trekking

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

Up here, where even at 7 p.m. a good coat of sunscreen is crucial protection from the harsh summer glare, and prehistoric musk oxen amble over glacier-carved meadows, time is a flexible concept.

There's no need to hit the trail early because the sun doesn't set until ... well, actually, it never really sets at all. At the height of summer, it dips and bathes the boulder-strewn mountains and scrubby high tundra in a purple glow around midnight, but it never goes far. If you have it in you, you could hike for 24 hours without fear of getting lost in the darkness.

Norway is known for its dramatic fjords and the sheer cliffs that ring the country's iconic waterways, but farther inland and a surprisingly easy train ride from the capital, Oslo, is a lesser-known destination that provides a wilderness experience unlike any you can find on the crowded trails of mainland Western Europe.

Dovre fjell National Park is popular with Norwegian trekkers but most foreign tourists don't make it here, and with its seemingly endless trails, you can go hours without bumping into any living thing that doesn't have hooves and a bad temper. One thing I love about Norwegians is that they get their kids on the trail almost as soon as they can walk (and sometimes before). The train from Oslo up to Dovre fjell was full of parents with full packs and young children in tow sporting chunky boots. Some parents even had infants in baby carriers.

I took to the trails with my reliable adventure partner, Josh DeMotts, a Stars and Stripes photographer I have nicknamed Chaco Libre for his love of scaling peaks in sandals. The appeal of Dovre fjell is threefold: challenging hiking in a wild setting, few tourists and hut-to-hut trekking that means you can pack just the essentials for a multiday journey.

The huts along the trail are simple, spottish wooden affairs stocked with everything you need for cooking, as well as an assortment of canned foods that you pay for on the honor system. Many of the huts have grass growing from the roofs and low doors, making them feel like Hobbit homes, a vibe only heightened by the landscape. It's not a bad idea to bring a filter, but locals just pull water out of the many

pristine streams flowing from the Dovre fjell Mountains that dot the park.

Sleep can be fitful at this latitude, with the light shimmering through cabin curtains at 3 a.m., playing havoc with your circadian rhythms. But, then again, every minute of sleep is a minute away from the dramatic landscape of Norway's Big Sky country. And you can look at the lack of showers on the trail as a bonus: you have no excuse not to bathe in the deep green waters of an alpine lake. (I can tell you firsthand, it's better than coffee for a jolt to wake you up).

The extensive hut system means you can cobble together a variety of treks varying in length and difficulty. You can mostly go around the park's rugged peaks, if you want, but the brutal mountain trails are some of the highlights. Dovre fjell includes one of Norway's most famous mountains, Snøhetta (Snow Hat in Norwegian), which, for my money, more resembles a whale's back than a hat. The climb to its 7,500-foot summit is basically one long rock scramble, and it's the same jarring footing all the way down the other side, but the 360-degree views from the top make it well worth it. (True to form, Josh made it to the top in his Chacos, so it can't be that bad).

If there ever were a perfect animal to fill in the vast empty spaces of this prehistoric landscape, it is the musk ox. Dovre fjell is most famous for these creatures, boasting hundreds of the shaggy, lumbering Ice Age holdovers with horns that sprout from a helmet of bone on the bison-like beasts' ample foreheads.

On the dusty trails that often merge without warning into hop-scotch through

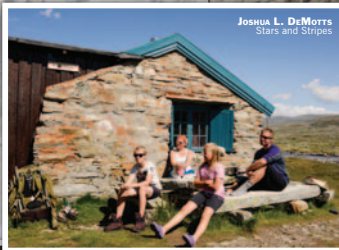
bogs, scrambles through boulder fields, and slips-and-slides across snowfields, it's easy to imagine you've been transported back to the age of glaciers and early man whence the musk ox came.

And while the animal is protected, you can still get a taste of the beast at Kongsfjeldstue, an 18th century lodge just down the road from one of the loneliest train stops in Europe. It serves as a fine jumping-off point for Dovre fjell treks and includes a surprising fine dining experience in the middle of nowhere, providing lavish multicourse meals with local ingredients.

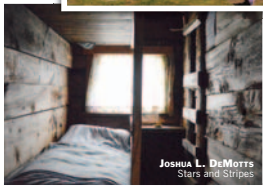
And where do they get the musk ox meat?

"Every once in a while, one falls off a cliff," joked Kongsfjeldstue proprietor Knut Nyhus. Or maybe he wasn't joking; he said it with that droll Norwegian delivery that always keeps me guessing.

druzin.heath@starsandstripes.com
Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT
Stars and Stripes



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT
Stars and Stripes

Background:
A Norwegian woman takes in a view of snow and rock at Dovre fjell National Park.

JOSHUA L. DeMOTT
Stars and Stripes

At left, from top: A Norwegian family enjoys the scenery outside the Amotsdalshytta hut in Dovre fjell National Park; A bunk bed in the Gammelsetra hut in the park; Photographer Joshua L. DeMotts soaks in a cold stream after a long day of hiking.



HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

KNOW & GO: DOVREFJELL NATIONAL PARK, NORWAY



Stars and Stripes

• **Getting there:** There are many inexpensive flights to Oslo from around Europe. From there, it's an easy and scenic four-hour, 45-minute train ride to Kongsvald (there are a couple other stops where you can access the park, too). Less-frequent flights go to Trondheim, by all accounts a cool college town in central Norway. From there, it's less than two hours to the park.

• **Where to stay:** If you want world-class food and a step back in Norwegian history before several days of canned food on the trail, Kongsvald Fjeldstue is well worth the expense. (Hey, it's Norway, so you're already in for sticker shock). Prices range quite a bit depending on the accommo-

modation, so ask them what's available. If you don't feel like using your feet to find the musk oxen, the lodge also offers wildlife safaris; visit kongsvald.no/natur-og-turer/moskussafari.

On the trail you will be staying at lodges run by the Norwegian Trekking Association. It's best to check in at the association's office in Oslo, as you might need a key for some of the huts (depend-

ing on how long your trek will be, it might be worth getting a membership, which includes deep discounts on hut rates). Payment for most of the cabins is on the honor system (you can fill out a credit card form at the hut and drop it in a pay box). See <http://english.turistforeningen.no>.

• **Information:** The park is open year-round. In the winter, the

trails become an endless cross-country skiing playground. The summer season is short (roughly June through August).

• **Pro tip:** Musk oxen are ornery creatures, so give them plenty of space. If they start snorting and you're close enough to hear it, it's time to back away. That's what your zoom lens is for.

— Heath Druzin



JOSHUA L. DeMORRIS/Stars and Stripes

Reporter Heath Druzin searches for a closer view of musk oxen in Norway's Dovrefjell National Park. The park is home to hundreds.

For a photo gallery on hiking in Norway, go to stripes.com/Norway



Hotel Directory

GERMANY

<p>Easy Comforts Eichendorffstraße 3, 92655 Grafenwöhr (Germany) 0175-7235641 or 0151-65708336 (USA) 253.314.8980 Email: info@easycornerseast.com</p>	<p>Book now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on marriott.com via your Mill. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</p>
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<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barracks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p>Hotel de France "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstrasse" Tel: +49 (0)611-95 97 30 www.hoteldefrance.de VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>

Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

<p>Idar-Oberstein The original <i>Spiegelrestaurant</i> Restaurant Alte-Kanzlei Cafeteria Restaurant The place to go for the original open fire grilled Gauer style steaks! Hauptstrasse 432-53743 Idar - Oberstein 06871-28059/367733 www.restaurant-altekanzlei.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Saytouna Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area PAPPELHAUS Steinernstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>Kaiserslautern area QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstrasse 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICO! Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbaden@enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808</p>
<p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>Brauhaus Castel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>	<p>Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldst. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<p>Café Temptation *reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainerberg/PX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>	<p>SMOKEHOUSE Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smokeritebbq.com</p>
<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Gabriel's Restaurant Original Authentisches Kleinstadtl Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriels-restaurant.de</p>	<p>Joden's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainerberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodenas-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>	<p>Stuttgart</p> <p>Kashmir Authentic Indian Cuisine Esslinger Str. 11 Phone 0711-997638 16 Leonberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-903232</p>

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

THANKSGIVING EVENTS ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Astugi ACC is taking orders for turkey packages for pickup Nov. 26 and 27 and Dec. 24 and 25, 264-3620/3621. On 3-6 p.m., Nov. 27 enjoy Thanksgiving buffet at Gallery, Far East Cafe, 264-3933. ITT Tours is offering transportation to Universal Studios Japan on Nov. 28.

Yokosuka has a discounted trip to DisneySea and Disneyland on Nov. 27. Yokosuka Outdoor Recreation has several events scheduled. On Nov. 22, take part in the Turkey vs Pilgrims Paintball Scenario: The Thanksgiving Finale at Ikego Paintball Paradise. Try out seaside cliff rock climbing Nov. 27 in Jogasaki, Shizuoka prefecture — registration fee includes instruction, transportation, and rock climbing gear. Or ski and snowboard at Yeti Ski resort in Shizuoka prefecture on Nov. 27.

Zama Community Club has a Thanksgiving Day buffet 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Nov. 27. Bowl for a discount 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Bowling Center. Enjoy a bazaar Nov. 29 and 30 at the Community Club.

Yokota Bring your own dish to the

Youth Center's free Thanksgiving potluck 4-6 p.m. Nov. 26. Enjoy a buffet at Tama Hills noon-6 p.m. Nov. 27.

Okinawa

Kadena Do decoupage 3-5 p.m. Nov. 22 with Arts & Crafts. Friendship Golf Outing is 7 a.m. Nov. 22 at Chibana Golf Course. A Thanksgiving buffet is 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 27 in the Rocker NCO Club Ballroom. Or do the drive-by dinner 4-6 p.m. at Rocker NCO. The International Gourmet Thanksgiving Buffet is 1-8:30 p.m. at Okuma Beach.

Guam

Andersen Gecko Lanes has a turkey shoot — win a turkey if you bowl three strikes in a row in a game — at 6 p.m. Nov. 20. Race the Gobble Wobble 5K Fun Run at Tarague Beach 6 a.m. Nov. 26. Take a Thanksgiving shopping excursion 5-8 p.m. Nov. 26 with Hotspot. On Nov. 27, enjoy brunch 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and supper 4:30-7 p.m. at Top of the Rock dining facility.

Naval Base Guam Liberty-authorized patrons can enjoy a free traditional Thanksgiving on Nov. 27. Volunteers needed to serve meals as well.



WINTER ILLUMINATIONS



Photo courtesy of Grandberry Mall

See the 29.5-foot fir tree decorated with 70,000 champagne, white and candle-colored LEDs blinking with the theme of White Berry Christmas every 20 minutes at Machida Grandberry Mall in Tokyo now through Dec. 25. For more: stripes.com/go/paclights.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

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30																				

■ Available ■ Not Available

THANKSGIVING Buffet

November 27, Thursday
Serving from 11:00 - 19:00
Adults: \$29.95
Children: \$14.95 (4-12)

RESERVATIONS FOR EVENTS:
events@thenewsanno.com or 229-7151

RESERVATIONS FOR ROOMS: room_rsv@thenewsanno.com or DSN 229-7121 CML 03-3440-7871 EXT.7121

We will respond with a confirmation number or contact you if your first choice of dates is not available. For current availability, call our Reservation Desk or check our website: www.thenewsanno.com. Available dates on the above calendars are subject to change without notice.

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Norio Muroi/Stars and Stripes

The Jingu-Gaien Ginkgo Trees Festival is now through Dec. 8. It includes refreshment booths, local crafts and products and live street performances — and more than 140 ginkgo trees — at Jingu-Gaien fountain park. For more: meijijinguaien.jp.

AUTUMN FESTIVALS IN JAPAN

MOUNT TSUKUBA MAPLE TREE FESTIVAL (Ibaraki prefecture): Through Nov. 30; hike, events including taiko (Japanese drums) performance, making and tasting rice cake, tea ceremony and more at Mount Tsukuba Cable Car Summit Station and see the mountain view from a cable car departing every 20 minutes 5-8 p.m. weekends; 1,050 yen adults, 530 yen children until 5 p.m., 1,000 yen adults, kids free after 5 p.m.

MOUNT TAKAO MAPLE TREE FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through Nov. 30; hike and view maple trees turning autumn red, and experience events

such as new sake tasting, local crafts and more at Takao Forest Center.

RANZAN VALLEY AUTUMN FESTIVAL (Saitama prefecture): Through Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; see autumn leaves along with food booths at Ranzan parking lot; 0493-81-4511.

NARITASAN PARK AUTUMN FESTIVAL (Chiba prefecture): Through Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; live performances of koto and shakuhachi (bamboo flute), and free open-tea ceremony services weekends; 10-minute walk from JR Narita Station on Narita-Line; nrjp.jp.

TSUKINOISHI MAPLE PARK AUTUMN NIGHT ILLUMINATION (Saitama prefecture): Through Nov. 30, 5-9 p.m.; river cruise and ropeway during daytime; five-minute walk from Kaminagatoro Station on Chichibu Railways; 0494-66-3311.

AUTUMN GARDEN OPENING AT TOKYO NATIONAL MUSEUM: Through Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., closed Mon.; autumn leaves at garden behind Honkan, the main building; free entry to garden, 620 yen adults, 410 yen children for museum; tinyurl.com/kltxqqw.

OFF BASE

Japan

ISU GRAND PRIX OF FIGURE SKATING 2014/2015, NHK TROPHY (Osaka): Nov. 28-30; men's and women's singles, pairs and ice dancing teams from 10 countries compete at Nanihaya Dome (Osaka Kadoma Sports Center), Kadoma Minami Station on Nagahori Tsurumi Ryokuchi Line; 2,000-12,000 yen; nhk-trophy2014.jp.

OOTAKURO KOEN ILLUMINATION (Tokyo): Nov. 28-Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; park was a residence of Motoo Ootaguro (1893-197), a music critic in Japan, and enjoy a garden and pond illuminated sunset-8 p.m.; 10-minute walk from JR Ogikubo Station on Chuo Line; 03-3398-5814.

TOKYO VEGGIEFOOD FESTIVAL: Nov. 29 & 30, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; featuring environmentally friendly food made with fresh vegetables and fruits, rice, grain, seaweed, tofu and more at 100 booths of Yoyogi Koen Hiroba, 15-minute walk from JR Harajuku and JR Shibuya Stations; tinyurl.com/k4u89ul.

YOKOHAMA REDBRICK WAREHOUSE CHRISTMAS MARKET (Kanagawa prefecture): Nov. 29-Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; German-style Christmas market. 15-minute walk from JR Sakuragicho and Kan-nai Stations.

Okinawa

THE 34TH TSUBOYA POTTERY FESTIVAL: Nov. 21-24, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; pottery masters exhibit works, including jars, sold for 20-30 percent off the market price; Naha Tsuboya Elementary School; 098-866-3284.

OKINAWA INTERNATIONAL CARNIVAL 2014: Nov. 29 & 30; includes giant tug-of-war along the Kuko (airport) Street, 10,000 people's folk parade, bullfighting, samba parade, and more in the Kaza Gate Street area and Chuo Park Avenue, Okinawa city, outside Kadena Air Base Gate #2; 098-989-5566.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Fiji



Manasa Ragigia, elder statesman at Fiji's Yasawa Island Resort, holding lobster for the night's dinner, asks: Who's better looking?

On this Pacific island, you'll find family you didn't know you had

BY ANNE Z. COOKE
AND STEVE HAGGERTY
Tribune News Service

As the departing guests gathered under the coconut palms in Savusavu, Fiji, to wait for the airport shuttle, Jane began to shed tears.

The rest of us, startled, exchanged looks. Knowing her, a once-upon-a-time debutante with manners to match, we thought she'd been put off by Koro Sun Resort, the most family-friendly — and the noisiest — of the three beach resorts we'd visited in Fiji, southwest of Samoa in the tropical South Pacific.

"I hate to leave," she said, mopping her eyes as the Fijian staff assembled to say goodbye. Turning from one smiling face to the next, she hugged the housekeeper, high-fived the kayaking guide and gave a thumbs-up to the guitar player who'd invited her to share in a late-night bowl of kava, the pungent drink the locals call "grog."

"I'll never see them again," she lamented, blowing her nose as she climbed into the bus. "It feels like losing the family I didn't know I had."

Compared with dreamy Yasawa Island Resort, on a pristine sand beach in the remote northwest Yasawa Archipelago, or with Nanuku Resort, a group of villas in Pacific Harbour, on Viti Levu, Fiji's main island, Koro Sun on the island of Vanua Levu did feel a bit like summer camp.

Each day started with a bang and didn't slow down until the Southern

Cross appeared in the sky. We were welcomed with a fruit drink served in a coconut and steered to a chair for a 10-minute foot massage. Shouting kids ran through the lobby on their way to the pool and water slide, passing a group of cyclists geared up for a ride.

A three-generation family partied at the adjacent dinner table and all 108 of the resort's guests packed into the clubhouse to watch pounding drums and a floor-thumping *meke* (traditional Fijian dance). We donned snorkeling gear and went out with the dive boat, floating over the coral reefs while the divers deep below — shadowy but visible — snaked their way through the "Dungeons and Dragons" canyon.

Meanwhile, Jane made her own plans, quietly slipping away to kayak through the cave at Bat Island with Manu, the guide, indulging in a meditative massage in the secluded Rainforest Spa, exploring the town of Savusavu alone and identifying indigenous flowers with Leba, the florist.

We'd been anticipating that last morning, too, but for a different reason. As seasoned Fiji fans, we knew the staff would assemble to sing "Isa Lei," the national "love song," the lyrics in Fijian. "Must you leave me?" sing the sopranos, their voices rising over the altos, each lingering phrase echoed an octave lower by the men's deep notes. "Every moment my heart for you is yearning; those happy hours are fleeting," they sing, the last refrain fading away.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

PHOTOS BY STEVE HAGGERTY, COLOR WORLD/TNS

Solitude on the estuary at Navua town, near Nanuku Resort, Pacific Harbour, Fiji.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



PHOTOS BY STEVE HAGGERTY, COLOR WORLD/TNS

A guest indulges in an end-of-the-day nap at the Edgewater Beach Club on the lagoon at Koro Sun Resort, Savusavu, Fiji.

FROM PAGE 34

It's enough to put a lump in any cynic's throat, even skeptics convinced that "Isa Lei" is the boss' way of ensuring guest satisfaction.

But the truth is that most Fijians, wherever they live on this 322-island paradise, would sing it voluntarily. In this musical culture, choir-singing is the soul of the church, and children learn harmony at their mother's knee. Think humming when you're happy; whistling while you work.

But a single song doesn't mean that Fiji's beach resorts are alike. Far from it, in fact. Each has a unique personality, shaped by location, climate, the topography and the owner's vision. This endless variety is why so many travelers come back over and over.

Yasawa Island Resort, where we'd been before, is a deluxe hideaway on a blue lagoon, accessible only by helicopter, small plane or boat. The experience, with 18 traditionally thatched and furnished bungalows, candlelit dinners, chef's menus and no-pressure days, is a dream come true for self-motivated explorers, A-list luminaries and honeymooners needing space.

"We're on Fiji time here," said Manasa Ragigia, Yasawa's resident elder and the "Spokesman" at Bukama, the neighboring Fijian village. "You want to fish all day? Fish," he told us, mixing drinks at the sunset cocktail party. "You want to kayak or snorkel? Whatever you like, it's your choice."

Indeed, our fellow guests knew exactly what they wanted. Mornings were filled with boat



Grades 1-6 at Bukama Village School assemble to greet visitors from afar at Near Yasawa Island Resort, Fiji.

dives on nearby reefs and coral mounts, snorkeling off the beach, windsurfing, fishing for marlin or sailing the catamaran. Laid-back afternoons offered meet-the-people tours in Bukama, lolling in the infinity pool, reading, joining the cultural and basket-weaving demonstrations and beach combing. On Tuesday, Ragigia and Chef Talala Tupou prepared a *lovo* (underground

oven) feast, a chance to taste most of Fiji's favorite ingredients and dishes.

Our hut, tucked among ferns, hibiscus and palms, had a deck, plantation shutters, hammock, indoor and outdoor showers, piles of towels and air conditioning.

A signature outing was the boat ride south to the Blue Lagoon, flooded limestone caverns where the movie of the



Stars and Stripes

‘We’re on Fiji time here. You want to fish all day? Fish. You want to kayak or snorkel? Whatever you like, it’s your choice.’

Manasa Ragigia,
Yasawa Island Resort's resident elder

same name featuring 14-year-old Brooke Shields was filmed. Depositing us on a narrow beach, Yasawa's guides waited while the cave guide, Aku Nacoba, escorted us up the cliff and down a tunnel into the eerie caves.

Back on Viti Levu, Fiji's main island, we headed for Nanuku Resort, a gated group of new and remodeled villas on the lagoon in Pacific Harbour. The villas, privately owned but in the rental pool, are grouped around the pool and pool deck, where the torch-lighting ceremony is held at sunset. Depending on how the space is shared, Nanuku has lodging for up to 80 guests, from couples and families to reunions

and small meetings.

According to Karen Taylor, the manager, Nanuku's location at the east end of the Coral Coast is why it succeeds as a Fijian-style safari lodge. "With the ocean in front of us and the mountains behind, there's everything from hiking and river rafting to sailing," she said.

A family with teenagers signed up for surfing at "world famous" Yanuca Island; the next day they headed south across the channel to Beqa Island Lagoon to dive with the sharks. The dive sounded so fascinating that we added it to our wish list for next time. In Fiji, said Taylor, "even the sharks think you're family."

WEEKEND: MUSIC

★ ★ ★ LOST ★ ★ ★



★ BROUGHT TO LIFE ★

Bob Dylan

The Basement Tapes Complete:
The Bootleg Series Vol. 11
(Columbia)

"The Basement Tapes Complete" arrives as an outlier in Bob Dylan's "Basement Tapes" series. It deconstructs the 1975 album and, in six discs of material, presents with a chronological trip through all the recordings they could salvage made by Dylan and the Band at Big Pink.

The album is sequenced according to Garth Hudson's documentation of the order of recordings, and it feels like we're finally being let in on a process, a moment where we get to see Dylan working out his relationship with music.

"The Basement Tapes Complete" is more historical document than album, one more interested in being comprehensive than being moment-to-moment marvelous. In that way, this box set rewards immersive listening.

—Matthew Flander/PopMatters



'New Basement Tapes' band takes on Dylan

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

The unexpected package from Bob Dylan's song publisher promised an adventure for music producer T Bone Burnett.

It was a collection of typed lyrics written — and forgotten — by Dylan during his fertile "Basement Tapes" period in the late 1960s. The instructions were minimal: do with this what you will. Now everyone can hear what Burnett did.

He booked a studio for two weeks and invited an insta-band of talented friends to transform the words into music. Elvis Costello, Marcus Mumford (Mumford & Sons), Jim James (My Morning Jacket) and Rhianon Giddens (Carolina Chocolate Drops) answered the call and, at Mumford's suggestion, Taylor Goldsmith (Dawes) was invited, too.

Nobody involved — even Burnett, an old friend — has spoken to Dylan about what they've done with his songs.

"We aren't looking for any kind of blessing," Mumford said. "It would be

cool if he likes it, but in a way, he's like everybody else now. He'll hear it in the same light as everyone else."

Burnett purposely gave the participants about as much instruction as he'd gotten, sending them the lyrics and a start date.

Most arrived with several written arrangements, with the exception of Mumford, who thought collaborating would be done on the spot.

It was an intimidating assignment. Giddens, for one, wondered if she'd pull her weight with more famous colleagues.

"You'd be a fool or an arrogant person if you don't say initially, of course it's daunting," Costello said. "But then were you daunted in the sense that you were frozen? No. How did we cut 44 songs in 12 days? In order to do that, you need the skill to prepare and the ability to recognize the moment."

Burnett sought to keep people comfortable. In a film about the project that debuts Nov. 21 stateside on Showtime, he's depicted as a kindly coach, offering quiet advice and a smile.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

Above: from left, Jim James, Rhianon Giddens, Marcus Mumford, Taylor Goldsmith and Elvis Costello collaborated on "Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes," an album produced by T Bone Burnett and created by the musicians using lyrics written by Bob Dylan for the legendary "Basement Tapes" recordings.

Various Artists

Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes (Electromagnetic Recordings/Harvest Records)

The bottomless well of material from Bob Dylan just got deeper with the release of "Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes."

The 20 songs are taken from lyrics Dylan wrote in 1967, during the period that

produced the so-called Basement Tapes recordings.

Elvis Costello, Jim James from

My Morning Jacket, and Marcus Mumford worked out musical arrangements from the lyrics. Former Dylan band member and producer T Bone Burnett oversaw the work and makes it all flow seamlessly.

The artists create something entirely new with lyrics written nearly 45 years ago that sound like they could just as easily have come from the Civil War, Dust Bowl or yesterday.

In other words, it's timeless.

—Scott Bauer/AP



WEEKEND: MUSIC



Photos courtesy of Big Hassle Media

T Bone Burnett produced "Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes." The album consists of a series of tracks based on recently uncovered lyrics handwritten by Bob Dylan in 1967.

FROM PAGE 36

He kept everyone moving: one or two takes, and it was time to try something new.

Chosen in part for their versatility, the musicians shuffled from instrument to instrument. Drumsticks for one song, guitar for another. Lead vocal on the music they composed, backup on others. Who has time to learn an arrangement? Just keep going.

"I'd never felt more creative," Goldsmith said, "and I've never felt less comfortable."

The musicians tried to be inspired by the spirit of the original Basement Tapes, when Dylan woodshedded in upstate New York with The Band, making music with no expectations people would hear it. A six-disc box of those old sessions is on sale this fall.

The big difference is they knew, this time, that many fans would be keenly interested in what they were doing.

"We were trying to make a great noise together," Mumford said. "We weren't worried about how people would respond to it, how people would like it. There were enough of us in the room

and we trusted each other's tastes enough to know, well, if we all like it, somebody else in the world is going to like it."

The sessions were, as Giddens put it, a master class in songwriting and illustration of the malleability of songs. The group recorded four different versions of "Hidee Hidee Ho" and the title cut, "Lost on the River." Two of each are on the new 20-song disc.

"What is a song?" James said. "Why does one person's brain see one set of lyrics and it's a bashing rocker, and another person sees the same lyrics and it's calm and tranquil?"

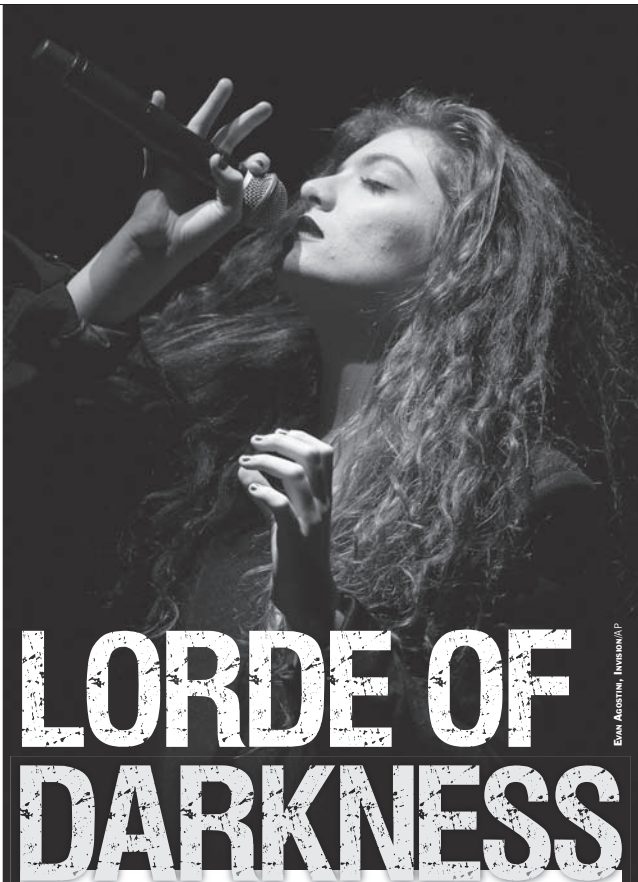
It's not like no one has ever tried to replicate the atmosphere of the Basement Tapes. The veteran Costello knows that it doesn't always work, and credits Burnett for fostering a sense that the musicians couldn't fail if they let themselves go.

They're already anticipating another project.

"I like Jim's idea," Costello joked. "Write new music for 'Blowin' in the Wind' and songs like that."



From left: Jim James, Elvis Costello, Marcus Mumford, Taylor Goldsmith and Rhiannon Giddens recording "Lost on the River."



LORDE OF DARKNESS

EWAN ANDERSON, JOURNALIST

Singer curates sinister 'Mockingjay' soundtrack

Various artists

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1, Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (Republic Records)

It was only a matter of time before Lorde graduated from contributing a song for "Catching Fire" to taking over the soundtrack for the latest "Hunger Games" soundtrack in which the 18-year-old chanteuse curates a concoction of dark magic, enchanting tunes and revolutionary feelings. As the world of Katniss Everdeen gets darker with sacrifice, violence and revolt, in "Mockingjay

— Part 1," the soundtrack follows suit with a medley of offbeat and oddly appealing synths, pianos and guitars.

Lorde's own vocal touch appears in "Yellow Flicker Beat" as she grows her way through introspective chants. The eerie remix by Kanye West takes the original's chorus and slows

it down to an ultraslow heartbeat. "Dead Air" by Chvrches speeds it up with Blade Runner-esque synths.

For the rest of the 14-track album, she enlists an unlikely collection of stars — Grace Jones, Simon LeBon, Chemical Brothers, Bat for Lashes, Pusha T and Diplo among others.

Whether it's a '70s sampler mixed with dissident drums like Grace Jones' "Original Beast," Chemical Brothers' catchy pop descent into madness in "This Is Not a Game" or Major Lazer's dance beat "All My Love," there's always a unique hint of sinister bubbling underneath.

Tinashe's melodious "The Leap" and the playful piano of Charli XCX's "Kingdom" offer a short but needed respite in all the darkness. And when you manage to come up for air to get away from it, you feel the itch to go back under again for more sorcery.

— Cristina Jaleru
The Associated Press



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

"If I Stay": A teen (Chloe Grace Moretz) must decide between life and death.

Director R.J. Cutler's film of Gayle Forman's best-selling novel is a complex examination of how love takes many forms and each version can bring its own heart-lifting highs and heartbreaking lows. How we deal with it is what shapes us as human beings and serves as the blueprint of the film.

"If I Stay" never falls into an emotional funk. Cutler flows between the present and the past to show the teen's loving connection to her family, music and friends in her life. This design makes it difficult to predict where this story will end, an accomplishment considering the limited options.

Stacy Keach turns in the performance of his career.

"And So It Goes": Veteran real estate agent faces being a grandfather.

The combination of Academy Award winners Michael Douglas and Diane Keaton with Oscar-nominated director Rob Reiner should add up to something more magical than this bland offering.

What keeps this mature romantic comedy from being a winner is a script by Mark Andrus that starts out vapid and barely rises to mediocre. Douglas and Keaton give it their best shot as two bickering New England neighbors. Their best isn't enough.



Warner Bros. Pictures

A town is beset by wild weather patterns in "Into the Storm," now available on DVD.

"Into the Storm": A group fights to survive when a super tornado hits.

This is the latest attempt to pull off the "found footage" style, but it stumbles so often it takes a lot of wind out of the sails of this film about massive tornadoes.

Couple that with some absurd dialogue and scenes that look like they were lifted out of another movie, and this movie is little more than a cheesy cable film with a lot more money to spend and a lot fewer sharks.

Also new on DVD:

"Power Rangers Megaforce: Robo Knight Before Christmas": One Power Ranger goes on a journey to find the true meaning of Christmas.

"Reclaim": Adoption leads couple into battle with man running human-trafficking ring. John Cusack stars.

"Three Dogaters": Three dogs fend for themselves a few days before Christmas.

"Ragnarok": Archaeologist looks for proof to myth about the end of the world.

"Jeff Dunham: All Over the Map": Stand-up comedy special featuring Dunham.

"Brazilian Western": Film adaptation of the song "Faroeeste Caboclo."

"The Dark Hall": George A. Romero film based on the Stephen King novel.

"Frozen Sing-Along Edition": Bouncing snowflake helps you follow the lyrics.

"Pumpkinhead II: Blood Wings": Five teens resurrect a demon.

"Masterpiece Worricker — Salting the Battlefield": Johnny (Bill Nighy) manages to stay a step ahead of an international dragnet.

"Kiki's Delivery Service": Enterprising young girl who must follow tradition to become a full-fledged witch.

"Monkey Shines": Paralyzed man uses monkey to get revenge.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

From left, Ivonne Coll, Gina Rodriguez and Andrea Navedo star in "Jane the Virgin," one of two new TV dramas that champion kindness and decency.

TYLER GOLDEN, THE CW/AP



PRIME TIME'S BRIGHT SIDE

TV rediscovers niceness with 'The Flash', 'Jane the Virgin'

By ALYSSA ROSENBERG
The Washington Post

For a long time, most prominent television shows have drawn their dramatic juice from the idea that all characters have big, bad secrets. The waste management consultant who is really a mobster has a wife who is having an emotional affair with his bodyguard. As a prisoner of war returned to the United States is a sleeper agent who plans to kill the vice president of the United States, of course the CIA agent investigating him must have bipolar disorder. Ambitious U.S. congressmen kill alcoholics in their cars and have threesomes with their Secret Service protection.

If these double lives were interesting, their proliferation sapped the power of these stories, sometimes irreparably. The idea that darkness was the only sophisticated tone to lend a story made TV feel like a drag a lot of the time, and the prevailing gloom lent a revolutionary air to alternatives like "Parks and Recreation," which insisted week after week that well-meaning, fundamentally good people could still be engaging to watch on screen, and that audiences genuinely wanted to root for someone.

It is one thing for a dogged little comedy to make that argument. But, delightfully, two of fall's best new dramas have taken up the charge. "The Flash" and "Jane the Virgin" are running creative laps around their grimmer competitors by demonstrating that the conflicts produced by good intentions are just as gripping as the misdeeds of people who conceal their worst selves rather than conquering them.

"Jane the Virgin," as Margaret Lyons described it, is "a telenovela on the CW, and it's about a pregnant virgin who, thanks to a distracted gynecologist, was accidentally inseminated with the sperm of a rich, unhappy hotelier, Rafael. You know, dramm." But what



Grant Gustin stars as Barry Allen in "The Flash."

JACK ROWLAND/The CW

distinguishes "Jane" from its competitors is not just its tone and its willingness to be slightly anti, but something that makes it different from other telenovelas as well: The show is constantly encouraging us to give all of its characters the benefit of the doubt.

And I mean all of its characters. Jane Villanueva (the marvelous Gina Rodriguez) is an easy sell. As the title suggests, she is a virgin who is trying to make the best of her surprising situation, balancing the needs of her fiancé Michael (Brett Dier) with those of hotel magnate Rafael (Justin Baldoni), whose child she is carrying (he had cancer and Jane's pregnancy is his last chance to become a father).

But "Jane the Virgin" extends that charity to characters who are doing less well. Xiomara (Andrea Navedo) turns out to have concealed the identity of Jane's father, Rogelio (Jamie Camil), now a successful telenovela star, out of fear Rogelio would try to claim custody. Rogelio, by turn, seems like a pompous goat, but he's profoundly afraid of wrecking his fledgling relationship with the daughter he only recently learned he had. Rafael turns out to be a former playboy who is afraid of losing the substantive career he built for himself. And while his wife Petra (Yael

Groblas) was cheating on Rafael with his best friend, "Jane" even manages to give her some paths in the form of lost happiness and an impossible mother.

"The Flash," which also airs on the CW, is a spinoff of a typically dark superhero show, "Arrow." But unlike tortured billionaire Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) in the predecessor show, "The Flash" centers on Barry Allen (Grant Gustin), a cheerful scientist who works as a crime scene investigator.

There is tragedy in Barry's past: His mother was murdered when he was a child, and his father, who Barry believes is innocent, was incarcerated for the crime. But unlike so many other superheroes, Barry is not defined solely by his tragedy. He has a close relationship with Joe West (Jesse L. Martin), the detective who raised Barry when his father went to jail, and Joe's daughter Iris (Candice Patton). When he acquires superpowers, Barry's reaction is exuberant and joyful. If you suddenly became the fastest man in the world, wouldn't you want to take your new skills out for a spin?

This being a crime series, "The Flash" does not bother to try to make everyone sympathetic. And trouble is surely brewing in the form of Dr. Harrison Wells (Tom Cavanagh), Barry's patron, who proves to have a nasty temper in private.

But at its best, "The Flash" is fair and kind about the mistakes people make when the stakes are as high as they inevitably are when superpowers are involved.

There is evil in the world, of course. And I am glad that television has proved itself capable of addressing the big questions that once might have been reserved for film and literature, if they were considered suitable for fictional treatment at all. But now that showrunners have demonstrated that they can plumb the worst of humanity, and then imagine even deeper depths, it is delightful to see others set their hands to a task that others have ignored: exploring niceness and kindness in all of its texture. There is just as much to see in the sunshine as in the darkness.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

By ERYN BROWN
Los Angeles Times

The doctors shifted nervously in their seats as the sharp-tongued questioner scanned the room.

Dr. Paul Offit, a University of Pennsylvania pediatrician and the nation's most outspoken childhood vaccine proponent, had come to the UCLA lecture hall to subject several dozen physicians to a faux parental grilling.

He wanted to give them the kind of pushback doctors have come to expect in affluent parts of Los Angeles and California, where increasing numbers of parents are refusing to inoculate their kids against contagious, even life-threatening diseases for fear of complications.

For many of the pediatricians in the audience, taking a hard line on the immunization schedule can mean potentially alienating well-intentioned, if misinformed, parents.

If Offit, a rock star in his field, could give these doctors more factual ammunition — and a little practice on their delivery — could they help convince resistant parents that science is simply not on their side?

The salt-and-pepper-haired Offit slipped straight into character and zeroed in on one young doctor.

"I know you doctors keep telling me that vaccines don't cause autism. If that's true, then why is it on this package insert?" he asked, playing the role of a parent who had read the blogs and heard the celebrities who connect the two.

Shifting in her seat, the designated victim shot Offit an unsure look.

Then she began citing studies and said that drug packaging inserts include many "temporarily associated symptoms" that weren't necessarily caused by the vaccine.

"Why?" Offit pressed. "Why would they put that there — just to scare me?"

The doctor kept trying. "They're required by law," she said. "I actually didn't know the answer."

Offit broke character to explain:

Drug companies must list any condition known to have occurred within six weeks of a vaccination, whether the medication caused the condition or not, and even if it occurs at the same level as with a placebo.

Package inserts are legal documents, not medical documents, he said, calling them "the bane of (his) existence."

"If you look at the original package insert for chicken pox vaccine, it says, 'Broken leg has been associated with this drug,'" he added.

Studies have firmly debunked the notion that vaccines cause autism. Yet that is one of the most common claims made by a persistent national anti-vaccination movement that treats Offit as public enemy No. 1.

Some brand the doctor as a mouthpiece for the pharmaceutical firms that sell vaccines, in part because he co-invented one to prevent rotavirus, which causes severe diarrhea in infants and children and kills nearly half a million around the world each year.

Since the introduction of a vaccine for measles in 1963, the number of cases in the U.S. has dropped dramatically. According to the CDC, vaccine refusals have played a role in measles outbreaks occurring since 1989.

Here in Southern California, physicians said, parents become concerned about vaccines for all kinds of reasons.

"In my area, we have a lot of families who don't want to get their children immunized," said Dr. E. Richard Stiehm, a UCLA pediatric immunologist and the orga-



Oliver McCaffrey, 2 months, of Santa Monica, Calif., receives a vaccination from nursing supervisor Caitlin Canelli of Tenth Street Pediatrics in Santa Monica. An increasing number of parents in Los Angeles and California are refusing to inoculate their children against contagious diseases for fear of complications.

RICK LOOMIS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

Inoculation perturbation

Doctors learn to push back, gently, against anti-vaccination movement

‘Many parents will say, if everyone else is vaccinated, my child will be protected. That’s true — but it’s shortsighted and self-centered.’

Dr. E. Richard Stiehm
pediatric immunologist, UCLA

nizer of the event. "Many parents will say, if everyone else is vaccinated, my child will be protected. That's true — but it's shortsighted and self-centered."

Doctors who showed up for the recent Q&A session — a first for Offit — said they were eager for advice.

"I want to listen to Dr. Offit because he's a world-renowned expert," Dr. Lisa Stern said before the event. "I know whatever he talks about, there'll be something I'll take away from it."

Stern said parents who reject vaccines outright generally don't seek care at Tenth Street Pediatrics in Santa Monica, where she has spent 20 years treating a patient base that includes the wealthy and well-traveled. She sees

a lot of families who are "sort of on the fence" about immunizations, she said.

"There's a lot of misinformation at baby groups and on the playground," Stern said. "The more educated people are and the more free time they have, the more they take a position."

Parents ask her about additives in injections, and whether giving babies "bulletproof vaccines" — shots that protect against more than one illness — will overwhelm their young immune systems. They ask whether a baby who's going to stay home with Mom really needs protection. They question why their child can't just skip being immunized against polio, since the disease has been eradicated in the U.S.

"I say, 'Your kid is going to travel. You're going to take your child to Africa. You can't take an unvaccinated child to Africa,'" Stern said. "I have stock answers for all of the questions."

But other doctors in the audience didn't have as ready an information arsenal, which was apparent as Offit continued to pepper his audience with questions.

A simulated parental inquiry about the Roman Catholic Church's opposition to four vaccines made using cells derived from

aborted fetuses elicited uncomfortable squirms.

Offit told the group that, in fact, the Catholic Church had ruled that use of these vaccines is acceptable to protect the health of children and pregnant women. (The church's official position does, however, call on researchers to develop alternative immunization options.)

Regarding worries about the inclusion of the preservative formaldehyde in some vaccines, Offit told the group that humans have been "making formaldehyde in our cells since we crawled out of the ocean onto land."

Audience members deftly answered "bread and butter" questions about the slower-going approaches to vaccination promoted by television talk-show host

Dr. Mehmet Oz and Orange County author Dr. Bob Sears, among others.

"With vaccine schedules, it's not an opinion," said Dr. Julie Omid, a pediatrician in the audience who practices in Irvine, not far from Sears' Dana Point home turf. "Dr. Sears writes lots of books and makes lots of money, but he's frankly wrong."

Omid said she tells parents that her own children, ages 6 and 3, get immunizations "on the first date that it is allowed."

Stern said Offit's presentation had armed her with useful information to take back to her "overeducated parents," and that she would "make more of an effort to push" those who sought to delay shots.

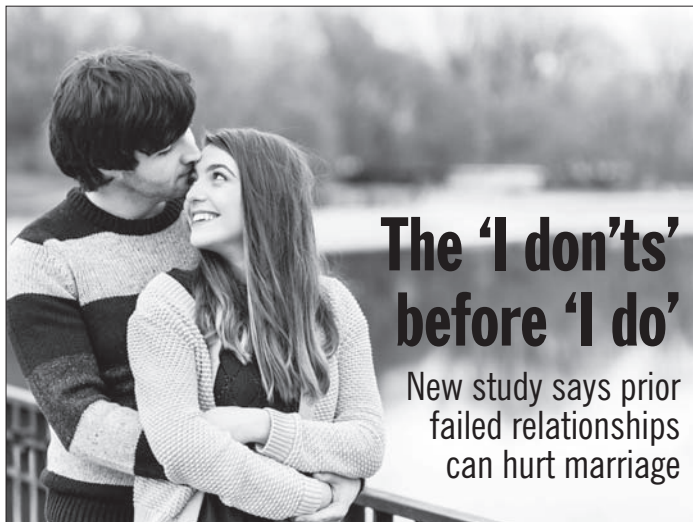
But she also said she thought it might be easier for Offit to draw a hard line than for pediatricians practicing day to day in L.A.'s tonier ZIP Codes.

"I waver with my families," she admitted. "But I have to. I have to keep their trust. If they send them away, they won't come back" and could end up in an office where doctors don't vaccinate.

In an interview, Offit said there also was risk in not pressing a resistant parent.

"If you do that," he said, "if you say, 'OK, we're going to make this decision together' — which is to say that they're going to be a major force in the decision — then you have to be willing to watch them make a bad one and stand back."

WEEKEND: FAMILY



The 'don'ts' before 'I do'

New study says prior failed relationships can hurt marriage

FOTOLIA/TNS

According to a new study, marital happiness could be compromised by many prior failed relationships.

By LESLIE MANN
Chicago Tribune

Now 31, Rodney Jordan said his brief marriage at age 22 was doomed before it started. When he wed, he said, he had had many failed relationships.

Jordan, a sixth-grade teacher in Manassas, Va., and author of "From the Heart of a Teacher," said he was "insecure and running from (a) bad situation."

His experience might not be so unusual. Findings from a new study point to having multiple relationships before you marry as a predictor of marital unhappiness.

"What happens in Vegas does not stay in Vegas," said Galena K. Rhoades, psychology professor and co-author of the study "Before 'I Do': What Do Premarital Experiences Have To Do With Marital Quality Among Today's Young Adults?" "Those relationships do matter — maybe because you compare your spouse to the others, you're difficult to get along with, or you're a risk-taker."

The five-year study, which Rhoades co-authored with psychology professor Scott Stanley, co-director of the Center for Marital and Family Studies at the University of Denver, was commissioned by the National Marriage Project at the University of Virginia. It included 1,294 unmarried Americans nationwide, ages 18 to 34. During the study, 418 of them married.

Prateek Mehrotra, 48, an Appleton, Wis., owner of a financial growth-management firm, believes that avoiding serious relationships before he married resulted in a happy marriage with Richa, his wife of 23 years.

"In my culture, you save your first, big date for your future spouse," said Mehrotra, whose family is from India. "In college, I went out with groups of boys and girls but

RELATIONSHIP RED FLAGS

The study "Before 'I Do'" also cited these marital happiness predictors:

- Physical aggression is a red flag for marital discord.
- Children from previous relationships add stress to marriages, but more so for women (possibly because they're more likely to have custody).
- Having a baby before marriage triggers marital stress, but mostly among people with college degrees. (They have different cultural norms than those without degrees, the authors suggest.)
- Having a larger wedding party predicts marital happiness — but the amount spent on the wedding does not. The large number of guests implies a larger support group — helpful when you face marital challenges, explained study co-author Galena K. Rhoades.

—Read the full study on the National Marriage Project website: national-marriageproject.org.

didn't have serious girlfriends."

The study also noted that having multiple premarital partners adversely affects marital happiness more than men's.

"We still have a double standard," Rhoades said. "Casual relationships before marriage are almost expected now. But with women, there's still a stigma."

But the study doesn't speak for everyone, said Laurel Wiers, 40, a marriage and family therapist in

Levy, Conn. In her own personal and professional experience, Wiers said, previous relationships can make for a better marriage.

"Dating helped me figure out who was my 'type,'" said Wiers, who has been married for 18 years. "When I met my husband, I knew he was the keeper. He wasn't controlling or possessive; he was confident."

Professionally, Wiers said she has seen clients "settle with the wrong people because of their lack of dating experience." What's more, she added, too many of these marriages last well past their expiration dates "because they say it's better than being alone."

The study also found that couples who make mindful decisions about milestones in a relationship — such as having sex, moving in together and getting engaged (not necessarily in that order) — have happier marriages than those who "slide" into those situations.

"This says rituals are important," said Rhoades, who would encourage couples to spend their time discussing and weighing options. "These decisions used to be automatic, but couples have more choices now."

Regardless of why a marriage fails, though, staying together because of "inertia" can be a serious problem, Rhoades said — which is why she is not in favor of "testing" your relationship by living together too soon. This can create a situation that makes it difficult to move on.

"You sign a lease together, buy furniture, adopt a dog," she said. "All these things make it harder to break up with the person you really don't want to be with."

Try taking a long vacation together instead, she suggested. Meet each other's parents, too. Then, she said, couples can "make the right decision without getting locked into a relationship that isn't right."

"Take your time," added Wiers. "There will still be plenty of people out there to choose from."

SPOUSE CALLS

Save a seat at the Thanksgiving table

At Thanksgiving, the feast is on the table, but in a military family, the focus is often on the chairs. Some of us will have empty chairs, because of deployment or distance from family members. Some will have extra chairs around the table to make room for friends and neighbors to join the celebration.

With empty chairs or extra chairs, we keep our traditions alive by recalling the stories that remind us to be grateful. Some military spouses shared their reasons for thankfulness and the ways they express it.

"My family jokes that my husband has one of the hardest-working guardian angels on the planet," said Randi Cairns, founder of Homefront Hearts, a nonprofit that supports New Jersey National Guard families. "He was supposed to be at a meeting in the World Trade Center on 9/11, but wasn't because he was honoring a commitment to my children. Still, that day changed what his military service looked like. In an instant, he went from weekend warrior to full-time soldier."



Terri Barnes

Another time, Randi's husband survived when his vehicle ran over an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

"He should have been blown out of the vehicle, and yet somehow, miraculously, the strap of his weapon caught on something that kept him safe — or at least as safe as you can be in the midst of an explosion."

Holly Scherer, co-author of "1001 Things to Love About Military Life," combined gratitude with connection while stationed overseas with small children. She started with a drawing of a turkey without feathers, and taped it to her dining room wall.

"Hey, we were in military housing with concrete walls, so it was OK," Holly said. "We mailed a feather to each relative with their name on it and asked them to write one or two things they were thankful for on their feather and send it back. When we received the feather, we placed it on our turkey. On Thanksgiving Day, when we sat around the table and shared our gratitude, the kids were able to gather all the feathers from our extended relatives, and we joined our family across the miles, in thanking God for the blessings of the whole family."

Karen Pavlicin-Fragnoto, author of "Surviving Deployment: A Guide For Military Families," said she learned from her mother to always "make enough for one more" to be prepared for guests, especially at the Thanksgiving table. "I am grateful for my parents' generosity, opening their home to others, and I learned a lot from that."

Military families readily add extra chairs and invite friends at the holidays, but then there are those empty chairs. Judy Davis, author of "Right Side Up: Find Your Way When Military Life Turns You Upside Down," said her family incorporates absent family members in their Thanksgiving conversations.

"We always go around and share two things we have been most grateful for," she said. "If someone is missing — deployed or unable to attend — we share why we are grateful for them this year."

Lori Volkman, who blogs at wittylittlesecret.com, and her husband always add extra chairs for another way. On Veterans Day, Lori and her family put up a traditional "white table," with symbolic elements honoring missing veterans, and they leave it out through Thanksgiving. Among the elements is an empty chair for those who are not with their families.

"We talk about what each element stands for at dinner," Lori said. "It's especially great for non-family members or guests who don't know military tradition, to hear my kids explain what it all means."

Cairns and her family will have one of those empty chairs again this year. Her husband is deployed, but she still finds reasons for gratitude.

"I am very incredibly mindful of how quickly you can lose what matters most and how immensely blessed I am that my husband is here," said Randi. "We don't have this Thanksgiving, but I know his empty chair still holds the promise of him sitting in it next year. And I pray for him and those charged with his safety — both the soldiers by his side and the angels playing backup."

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at astripes.com/go/spousecalls.

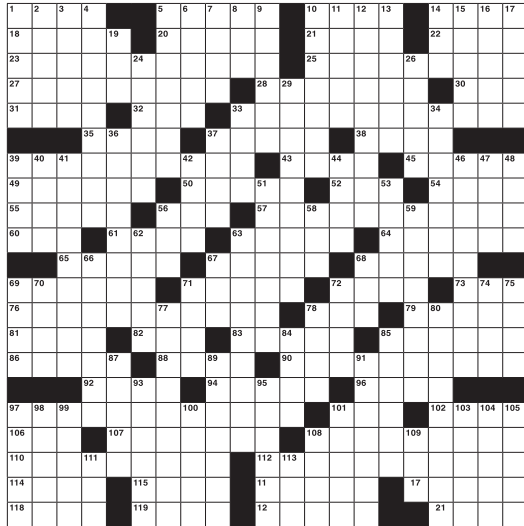
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

DON'T QUIT YOUR DAY JOB

BY ANDREW J. RIES / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
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- 10 Like some textbook publishers
- 14 Wee bit
- 18 Instruments with flared bells
- 20 Perfume with an accent in its name
- 21 Locker-room user
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- 25 Spotlight
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- 31 It's faster than the blink of an eye: Abbr.
- 32 Scrubs wearers, for short
- 33 Punk rocker who would make a lousy grocer?
- 37 Biebert Fever, e.g.
- 38 Piano-playing cat, once
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- 43 Fr. title
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- 67 Theme park with a spherical landmark
- 68 Defeat decisiv y
- 69 Fiery
- 71 Jones of the original Stones
- 72 Contest winner's feelin g
- 73 Consumed
- 76 Bygone comic who would make a lousy baker?
- 78 Work at
- 79 Byzantine emperor known as "The Philosopher"
- 81 Like dollhouse furniture
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- 83 Early eight-bit computer maker
- 85 Tom ____ big role in "The Purple Rose of Cairo"
- 86 Blades that sound like an allergic reaction
- 88 Elapse
- 90 Cabaret pianist who would make a lousy electrician?
- 92 The gamut
- 94 Dog-____
- 96 Where to learn to draw?
- 97 Lawyer who would make a lousy anti-Communist leader?
- 101 Electronic music's Daft. Punk, e.g.
- 102 Junior's challenge, for short
- 106 Org. replaced by the N.R.C.
- 107 Elaborate
- 108 Set side by side
- 110 More than plump
- 112 Singer who would make a lousy mohel?
- 114 German titl e
- 115 Michael of "Arrested Development"
- 116 Bother
- 117 Feints
- 118 ____ of the earth
- 119 Helmeted god
- 120 Window's counterpart
- 121 Word before or after lim e
- DOWN
- 1 John Wayne or Johnny Carson, by birth
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- 3 "Cape Fear" co-star
- 4 New England town official
- 5 Class ring, e.g.
- 6 Parliaments produce them
- 7 Air-conditioner fig.
- 8 Always, in verse
- 9 Reveal s
- 10 God, with "the"
- 11 Genevê's lake
- 12 Toy holder
- 13 "Present"
- 14 Residents, eventually: Abbr.
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- 16 15-time All-Star shortstop Smith
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- 24 Cost for some plugs
- 26 Drifter outside a coffee shop?
- 29 Add one's two cents about
- 33 Shocks
- 34 Sprint, e.g.
- 36 Con's plan
- 37 Short-order sandwich
- 39 Deepest part
- 40 See 44-Down
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- 46 Yearbook feature
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- 58 Summer setting in the Midwest: Abbr.
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- 62 Wasn't really
- 63 Fabuliz e
- 66 Annually
- 67 Fumble, say
- 68 Like some grins
- 69 Many authors have them: Abbr.
- 70 Horse halter
- 71 Osso ____
- 72 Supersmooth
- 74 Asseverate
- 75 Gossip
- 77 Barbecue fryer?
- 78 Elbow, maybe
- 80 Many boomers, now
- 84 Still snoozing, say
- 85 One way to learn
- 87 Farm homes
- 89 Caviar sources
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- 97 Campaign setback
- 98 Grasp
- 99 The planets, now
- 100 Subject of many a Turner landscape
- 101 Goffer Davi d
- 103 Terri f
- 104 Posed
- 105 "The Gondoliers" girl
- 108 Things aircraft carriers carry
- 109 With
- 111 Alpine land: Abbr.
- 113 ____ chi

GUNSTON STREET



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RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



DOES SANTA EXIST?

by ERIC KAPLAN

In the hands of acclaimed comedy writer and scholar Eric Kaplan, a search for the truth about old St. Nick becomes a deeply insightful, laugh-out-loud discussion of things we deeply believe in — that are not universally acknowledged as real. Just like Santa and his eight (or nine) reindeer.

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FACES

'I'm going to say what I think'

Affleck praises wife, talks Bill Maher spat

By JOHN CARUCCI
The Associated Press

Ben Affleck feels more comfortable speaking his mind than pretending to say what people want to hear. So before receiving his award at Wednesday's Save the Children Illumination Gala, he praised wife Jennifer Garner on her dedication to their family, and then shared insight into his recent spat with "Real Time" host Bill Maher over generalized remarks about Islam.

On an episode last month, Affleck took issue with Maher saying that Islam is "the only religion that acts like the Mafia."

"I was ultimately making a 'Sesame Street' argument. You don't judge a whole group of people based on the actions of a few," Affleck said of their heated debate.

The "Gone Girl" actor makes no bones about speaking his mind when it comes to hot-button issues. "That's the environment around my dinner table when we talk politics," he said. "I think I'd rather tell the truth and say what I believe in and make people unhappy than sort of pretend to think something else to accommodate them and try to be liked. That's just the way it goes and I don't think I'm any great champion of anything, but if they're going to put me on a show, I'm going to say what I think."

As for Garner, the 42-year-old actor says he's grateful that his wife takes on the "lion's share" of responsibilities, dedicating her time to raising their three young children, while maintaining her career and charity work.

"She's been really smart about choosing her projects, doing 'Dallas Buyers Club' or 'Alexander and the Terrible Day,' smart, good movies that luckily have been successful. And then, they're not so time-consuming that she can't do this work and be there for our kids, which is the most important thing to her," Affleck said. Garner spoke of how the couple divides their time for philanthropy. "He works on Eastern Congo Initiative, and I work on the U.S. programs for Save the Children, and within that, I really work on getting kids started on the right foot



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Actor, filmmaker and Eastern Congo Initiative founder Ben Affleck, left, and wife and actress Jennifer Garner attended the 2nd Annual Save the Children Illumination Gala in New York City on Wednesday. Affleck was honored at the event.

from birth to 5, helping families get their kids up and ready for school and healthy," she said, adding: "We don't scatter our energy around."

Affleck co-founded the Eastern Congo Initiative in 2010 with Whitney Williams. The organization advocates the economic and social growth of the country through various programs.

Affleck was honored with the Global Child Advocate Award for his support in providing children around the world a stronger start in life. Among the evening's other recipients were former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who received the Global Legacy Award, and Austin Heerst of the Hearst Corp., who was honored with the Humanitarian Award.

Bono seriously injured in bicycle accident

An injury to U2 singer Bono after what was described by the group as a "cycling spill" left him with multiple fractures that required him to undergo two surgeries, a doctor said Wednesday.

Bono was in a "high-energy bicycle accident" when he was trying to avoid a cyclist on Sunday, orthopedic trauma surgeon Dr. Dean Lorch said in a statement from NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center and Hospital for Special Surgery.



Bono

Bono arrived at the Manhattan hospital and underwent multiple X-rays and tests that showed he had a facial fracture involving his left eye socket, his left shoulder blade fractured in three places and a left elbow fracture that went through the skin and left the bone in six pieces.

Lorch said Bono underwent a five-hour surgery that included washing his elbow out, moving a trapped nerve and inserting three plates and 18 screws on Sunday night. Bono had another surgery to repair a fracture to his left little finger on Monday.

Lorch said Bono will need therapy but a full recovery is expected.

Klay wins book award

Phil Klay's "Redeployment," a debut collection of searching, satiric and often agonized stories by an Iraq war veteran, has won the National Book Award for fiction.

Klay was chosen Wednesday night. His book was the first debut release to win in fiction since 2002, the first story collection to win since Andrea Barrett's "Ship Fever" in 1996 and the first fiction win for an Iraq veteran.



Klay

Clearly surprised and moved, the 31-year-old Klay — among the youngest fiction winners ever — spoke of his work as an essential way to understand and communicate his 13 months in Iraq and the adjustment back home.

"War's too strange to be processed alone," he said, thanking readers who "decided to join the conversation."

The nonfiction prize went to Evan Osment for "Age of Ambition." Former U.S. poet laureate Louise Glück's "Faithful and Virtuous Union" won for poetry, and Jacqueline Woodson's "Brown Girl Dreaming" won for young people's literature.

Other news

■ **Mike Love**, a founding member of the Beach Boys and lead singer on such hits as "Surfer U.S.A.," has an agreement with Blue Rider Press for "Good Vibrations: My Life as a Beach Boy." Blue Rider, an imprint of Penguin Random House, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the memoir is scheduled for a 2016 release.

■ **Jimmy Ruffin**, the Motown singer whose hits include "What Becomes of the Broken-Hearted" and "Hold on My Love," died Monday in a Las Vegas hospital. He was 78.

■ NBC has scrapped a **Bill Cosby** comedy that was under development and TV Land will stop airing reruns of "The Cosby Show," moves that came a day after another woman came forward claiming that the comic had sexually assaulted her.

■ The Library of Congress honored singer and songwriter **Billy Joel** with the Gershwin Prize for Popular Song on Wednesday.

From The Associated Press

LL Cool J, Chaka Khan help honor Quincy Jones

By SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

Though Quincy Jones and LL Cool J never collaborated musically, the rapper says Jones has played a major role in his life.

"You just really taught me to be a man," LL Cool J said Wednesday in a heartfelt introduction of his mentor and friend at Ebony magazine's annual Power 100 gala, where Jones was the guest of honor.

He received a lifetime achievement award at the event, which recognizes black

Americans who are wielding considerable power, such as TV producer Shonda Rhimes, New York Times editor Dean Baquet, physicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and Little League star Mo'Né Davis.

LL Cool J said Jones is like a father to him and called him "the greatest producer in the history of music."

Fittingly, the 81-year-old producer, com-



Jones

poser and philanthropist was celebrated in song. Chaka Khan also said Jones feels like family. He's "like an uncle, even a father," she said as she dedicated her performance of "Sweet Thing" to him. James Ingram sang two hits that Jones produced: "Just One" and "One Hundred Ways." Ingram also shared a duet with Patti Austin.

Jones was recognized for his philanthropic efforts and six-decade career. He's worked with the greats, from Frank Sinatra to Michael Jackson. He's scored feature films — 38 of them — and earned seven Academy Award nominations.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Test all rape-case DNA evidence Newsday

Actress Mariska Hargitay, who plays a New York City sex-crimes detective on "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," got it right when she said prosecutors had shown flagrant disrespect to women by routinely failing to follow through on DNA testing in rape cases.

That's maddening. But we're happy to hear that Cyrus R. Vance Jr., Manhattan's district attorney, has set out to repair this ugly lapse with a plan to help prosecutors nationwide do such tests. Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation and other groups will help Vance with the distribution of \$35 million in civil forfeiture assets.

Why a national program? Because no person should be violated and no violator should go free. The testing of rape evidence — hair, blood and other bodily secretions — should be a police staple. ... But lab tests cost \$1,000 each, and authorities in places like Cleveland; Memphis, Tenn.; and Tulsa, Okla., can't always afford them. This is very dangerous.

Look at New York. The city had a backlog of 17,000 untested files in 2000. Over the next four years, it managed to clear hundreds of them — and that effort led to 49 indictments in Manhattan alone. It has since tested all of the files.

It's crazy for any city to let sex offenders prowl its streets without accountability for their crimes.

Vance's program is crucial. ... If effective, it will give victims their safety matters to all of us. It will tell evildoers they're not home free yet.

End food ingredient surprises (Longmont, Colo.) Times-Call

If your breakfast this morning came out of a box, odds are that "natural and artificial flavors" were part of the experience.

The "natural and artificial" combination has been a part of processed foods so long that many Americans have for years hardly give a second thought to what they're eating. It's as if the word natural, in the consumer's mind, balances the artificial part of the equation. Food makers even focus on the word natural.

But as more Americans pay attention to what they eat, they are beginning to know what those natural and artificial flavors — and other ingredients added as flavor enhancers — are made of. That is, if their bread is made of something more than wheat, oil and salt, they want to know what it is.

Bread is at the center of one recent movement to change what food manufacturers produce and sell. A petition demanded that sandwich-maker Subway eliminate the use of azodicarbonamide in the making of its bread. Azodicarbonamide is a chemical used to make bread more spongy and therefore, longer-lasting. That quality also makes it good for use in yoga mats and shoe soles. So Subway removed the ingredient — although it still might be in the bread that's in your home pantry.

And beverage companies Coke and Pepsi recently removed brominated vegetable oil from their beverages. ... Gatorade, Powerade and fruit-flavored carbonated soft-drinks — because brominated vegetable oil, which keeps citrus flavoring agents from rising to the surface, is patented as a flame retardant.

It's good to have power in the hands of consumers, who can sway manufacturers and distributors ... to change what they put



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Actress Mariska Hargitay, left, hugs rape victim and founder of Natasha's Justice Project Natasha Alexenko during a news conference in which Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. announced that he pledged as much as \$35 million to help eliminate a backlog of untested rape kits nationwide in New York on Nov. 12.

in America's food stream. But that can't happen unless consumers know what's in their food. The long list of ingredients might not fit on the side of a box or can, but it is reasonable for food manufacturers to post complete lists of ingredients online. Then let consumers research and decide for themselves.

But consumers must understand that chemicals are the building blocks of everything from car tires to cake, and multiple syllables do not necessarily equal "bad for you."

And just because a chemical in your food can also be found in a nonfood product doesn't mean that it's bad for the body. Calcium sulfate dihydrate is used in drywall and fertilizer. Better known as gypsum, it's also used to coagulate your tofu.

America's food manufacturers aren't working just to make good food; they are out to make money. So, consumers must be alert to marketing that misleads, but they also must not panic about minute and multisyllabic ingredients that ultimately will have less effect on their health than the fats and sugars they consume.

Don't shun all assisted suicide (Columbia (Mo.) Daily Tribune

We are hearing more these days about "death with dignity," which is a dignified way of saying it makes sense to breathe our last breath in the most painless and pleasant way possible under the terms we control.

Techniques range from withholding life-sustaining medical intervention to more controversial but increasingly acceptable assisted suicide.

The latter got a lot of publicity recently when 29-year-old Brittany Maynard took her own life rather than suffer the ravages of brain cancer. She had moved to Oregon, one of five states where a doctor can legally prescribe drugs to end life. She did it consciously and with full support of loved ones, whose last memories of Brittany are of a person most comfortable and in most control who simply went to sleep. Brittany wanted to say goodbye on her own terms.

Society continues to struggle with this concept. Only in recent generations have we had the real option. Life in years past ended earlier and with less warning. Medical science lacked the means for preserving life as it can now, a new ability that brings great benefits but new challenges as well.

Too often today sick people and loved ones — and society in general — insist physicians do everything possible to keep an ailing patient alive, when hanging on is bad for all concerned. ...

In such cases, everyone hangs on — for what? Would it not be better if, with everyone's consensus, an earlier decision would be made to peacefully end life at an appropriate moment? ...

We're getting there. States are beginning to consider life-ending legislation that will allow individuals and designated legal decision helpers to make a much better issue of the final moment.

Methane leaks can be plugged (The Dallas Morning News

Natural gas is a cleaner alternative to oil and coal, but it also produces methane, a greenhouse gas that arguably is a greater contributor to climate change than carbon dioxide. While the warming impacts of carbon dioxide build take longer to reverse, methane leaks are more intense and warm the atmosphere 80 times as fast as carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide will heat the planet; methane leaks will heat it faster.

As the nation's biggest gas-producing state, Texas is responsible for about 30 percent of the nation's methane emissions, much of them from leaky pipes and valves along the gas production and storage process.

So far, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has stayed on the sidelines instead of working with the industry and environmentalists to reduce this waste. That's a big mistake. The federal government is expected to produce rules on methane emissions within a few months. It is in the best interests of Texans that the oil and gas industry, environmentalists and regulators beat Washington to the punch in the hopes of influencing federal rules.

Texas doesn't have to look far for examples of forward-thinking state leadership. Colorado this year became the first state to require the oil and gas industry to monitor and fix leaky valves and other points that could allow methane to escape. Wyoming, Ohio and Pennsylvania and other states with gigantic gas-producing fields — have followed Colorado's example.

In Texas, these simple steps to prevent methane leakage would have the same environmental impact as shuttering 13 coal-fired power plants and would add virtually nothing to the overall price of natural gas, says the Environmental Defense Fund, a market-based environmental group.

As a major oil and gas producer, Texas has an obligation to be part of the solution. Now it must show the will. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should require companies to reduce methane emissions even without new federal legislation.

Don't hide windmills' downside (The Intelligencer/Wheeling (W.Va.) News-Register

It turns out alternative energy companies, supposedly kinder than kind to Mother Nature, have some dirty not-so-little secrets. At least one of them wants to keep it that way.

Americans learned last year that President Barack Obama's administration had given the wind energy industry a break no one else gets. Federal laws intended to protect some birds, such as bald eagles, were not being enforced against the firms.

That led The Associated Press to inquire how many birds are being killed by the giant, spinning blades connected to wind energy generators.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials were ready to give the AP reports on the matter from wind energy companies. One, PacificCorp of Portland, Ore., has filed a lawsuit to block release of the information.

The AP already knows of dozens of eagle deaths caused by wind farms. PacificCorp operates more than a dozen wind farms in Wyoming and at least two states. AP reporters know that at two 20 dead eagles have been found on company property in Wyoming. If wind energy is such a wonderful idea, why is the firm so set on keeping bird kills a secret?

There is no acceptable reason for it to do so. The federal judge involved in the case should reject PacificCorp's lawsuit and order that the information sought by the AP be released.

Wasted time spent on pennies (Concord (N.H.) Monitor

Americans have a complicated relationship with the penny. On one hand, people don't have much use for pennies and are happy to leave them in those ubiquitous plastic "need a penny" trays at convenience stores. But polls show that a majority of Americans can't bear the idea of permanently getting rid of the inspiration behind such a saying as "You never thought" and "A penny saved is a penny earned."

The nostalgia is understandable (remember penny candy!), but the fact is that this lovable loss of a coin is costing the U.S. a fortune.

So far this year, the U.S. Mint has produced 6.8 billion pennies at a cost of 1.66 cents per coin (for a total of about \$113 million). That's right: The penny costs more to make than it's actually worth.

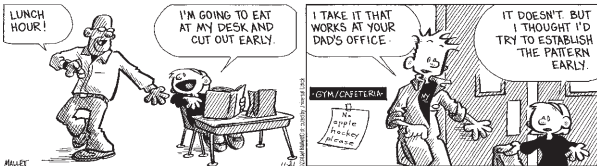
Politicians of all stripes like to talk about government waste, and waste doesn't get much more obvious than that. If you're a politician, you want your voters to know to make than it's worth, you will be closing up shop before you make the first lease payment on the factory. But the U.S. Mint just keeps on cranking out pennies whenever banks start running short on change. And why do banks run short on change? Because, according to The Wall Street Journal, about 21 percent of pennies made since 2000 have fallen out of circulation. You don't need a Secret Service investigation to get to the bottom of the coins' disappearance: People treat pennies like heavy pocket lint. ...

That said, pennies aren't the only problem with the U.S. Mint. At a cost of 8.09 cents per coin, nickels aren't exactly the epitome of smart money. ...

If the U.S. is nervous about what it would mean to the economy as a whole if the penny was eradicated, it can look to Canada for guidance. America's neighbor to the north started phasing out pennies last year and so far everything has gone smoothly. ...

The time has come for America to say goodbye to the penny and put the nickel on notice. Yes, the going rate for the thoughts of another would go from one cent to a dime, but that seems to be a small price to pay to make more and cost-efficient approach to American currency.

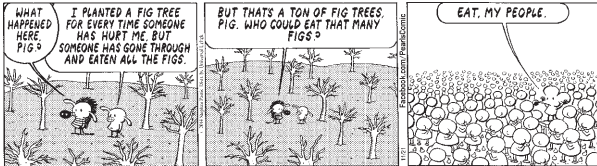
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



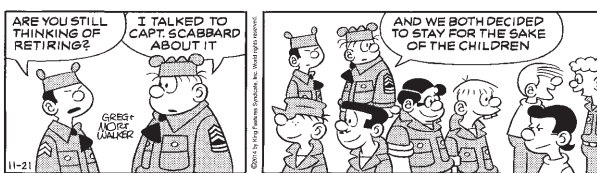
Candorville



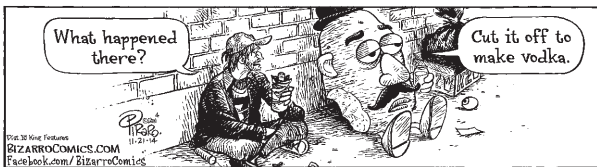
Get Fuzzy



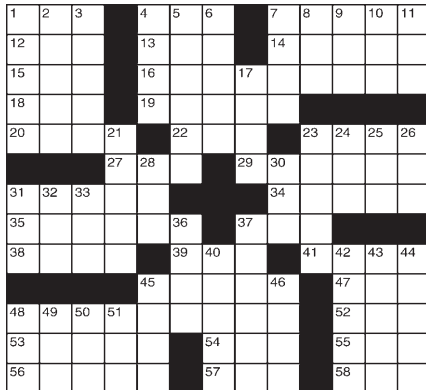
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- Will Ferrell title role
- Sitter's seat
- Lowly laborers
- Pointlessness?
- Bachelorette's final answer
- Diplomatic agent
- Literary collection
- Helen Reddy song
- Hollywood trickery (Abbr.)
- Ignite
- 20 Snitched
- 22 Three, in Rome
- 23 Freshshadow
- 27 Officeholders
- 29 Role in almost every whodunit
- 31 English china
- 34 Autumnal quaff
- 35 Mingle
- 37 Harden
- 38 Maze goal
- 39 Feedbag morsel
- 41 Region
- 45 Blue hue
- 47 Gen., Exod., Lev., —
- 48 Connery's "Entrapment" co-star
- 52 List-ending abbr.
- 53 Old marketplace
- 54 Spigot

DOWN

- Play charades
- Vernacular
- Swing about
- Covers
- Skilled ones
- On top of the world?
- Mountaineer's challenge
- Stop
- Eggs
- Present
- 11 Wd. from Roget
- 17 Arduous journey
- 21 Failed to
- 23 Intense media
- campaign
- 24 Antiquated
- 25 Sandra or Ruby
- 26 Mess up
- 28 Ultramodernist
- 30 "Rocks"
- 31 Yon maiden
- 32 Pestilence
- 33 Japanese sash
- 36 Long-popular TV clown
- 37 Jog sans togs
- 40 Family members
- 42 Shaq's last name
- 43 Eccentric
- 44 Sajak or Trebek
- 45 Open some
- 46 Get a glimpse of
- 48 Microwave
- 49 Swelled head
- 50 AAAA job
- 51 Common verb

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-21

CRYPTOQUIP

U'C K M J O M K R M O N M K D

V X X M T K J W M O F U W J M E U X V N

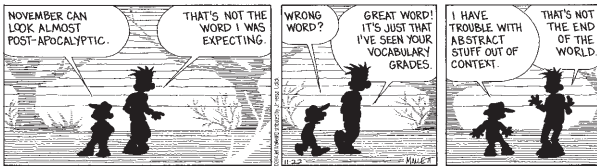
P Y P K J W. E P V R U K D J F P C D U Y P W

C P X F E M K U X N P F P V R X F P W.

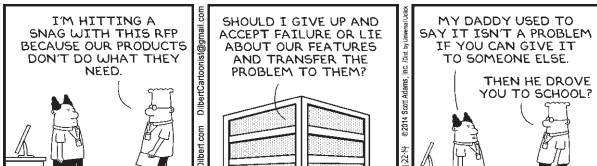
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU BELIEVED AN ATTRACTIVE FORCE OF NATURE WERE DIVINE, WOULD YOU BE DEIFYING GRAVITY?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

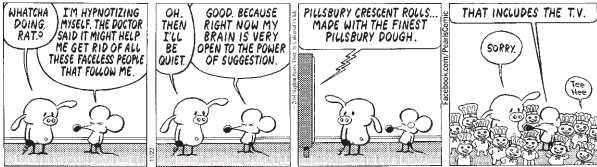
Frazz



Dilbert



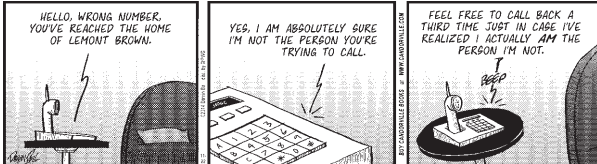
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



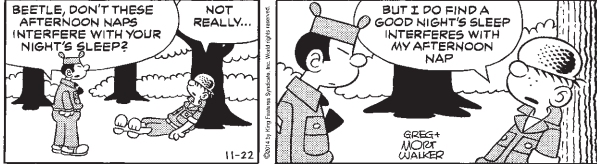
Candorville



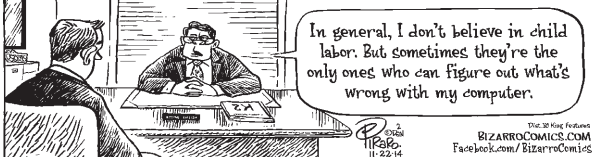
Get Fuzzy



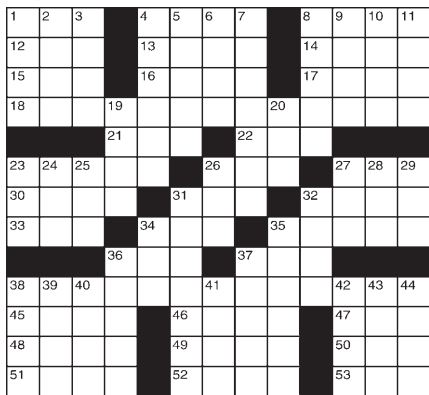
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Accomplished
- 4 Piglet's pop
- 8 Zinger
- 12 Mamie's man
- 13 Farm fraction
- 14 Dunkable treat
- 15 Bishopric
- 16 Crackerjack
- 17 Rowan Atkinson role
- 18 Her last film was "To Be or Not to Be"
- 21 Apiece
- 22 Unfavorable vote
- 23 Charlatan
- 26 Attention getter
- 27 — Beta Kappa
- 30 Operates
- 31 "Oklaohoma!" baddie
- 32 Any moment now
- 33 Nevertheless
- 34 Occupation
- 35 Condos, e.g.
- 36 Coquettish
- 37 — -Magnon
- 38 Dog owner of rhyme
- 45 Franc replace-ment
- 46 Tittle
- 47 Hide-hair link
- 48 Dogfight fighters
- 49 Dispatch
- 50 Reproductive

DOWN

- 1 Platter
- 2 Furniture brand
- 3 Antelope's play-mate
- 4 Turned on the waterworks
- 5 Earth tone
- 6 Seed coating
- 7 Did a city plan-ner's job
- 8 Coventry copper
- 9 Neighborhood
- 10 Caboose's place
- 11 Fleming hero
- 19 "Bloom County" penguin
- 20 Potentially will
- 23 Saute
- 24 Wish undone
- 25 Pismire
- 26 Center
- 27 Luau dish
- 28 Stolen
- 29 — and outs
- 31 Reckless jaunt
- 32 Uppity one
- 34 Coffee
- 35 Suave
- 36 Picked
- 37 Good-looker
- 38 Vegan's no-no
- 39 Smart answer?
- 40 Genealogy chart
- 41 Barrel part
- 42 Soon, in verse
- 43 Go hither, thither and yon
- 44 Attract

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-22

CRYPTOQUIP

ECN ZRYSHS J BRFSIRTY CXP
 ZN PRIHSJ FNE XSB KXEN
 ER FRYQ. H ECHSQ H'Z JRHSJ
 ER LXXK HS PKHLQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'M NOT FOND OF LONG ACCOUNTS OF HISTORICAL EVENTS. READING THEM GIVES ME CHRONICLE HEADACHES.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals I

they'll LOVE it

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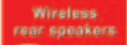
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NBA

Always crummy in Philadelphia?

Winless 76ers again shuffling towards NBA futility mark

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ellen DeGeneres used her monologue on Wednesday's show to speak right to the heart of Philadelphia 76ers fans.

"I want to be a glow where it's gloomy," she said.

Around the NBA, no city is gloomier these days than Philadelphia. Turns out, she said, the Sixers are having a bad season.

And where did they get that name?

"I believe they're named after the 76 gas stations," she said.

Rim shot!

And just like most of the 76ers' shots at the rim, it was a clunker.

She should have tried this one — "I believe they're named after the number of games they'll lose this season."

Of course, the Sixers would have to roll into quite the hot streak to win six games this season, so perhaps that one-liner aims a bit high for the worst franchise in sports this side of the Oakland Raiders.

The 76ers are the Hackey Sack of the NBA. Watch as Larry Brown kicks an insult to Eric Bledsoe who punts it to Fred Carter who may as well just let it drop to the court and let the other 31 NBA teams stomp and romp all over it.

Yes, the 76ers were supposed to be bad — the only one smiling after this 0-11 start is team president and tank mastermind Sam Hinkie — but this bad?

Using old school stats or modern analytics, the Sixers are the worst of the worst by any set of numbers.

The 76ers are only seven defeats from tying the 2009-10 Nets for the worst start in NBA history.

They have five more straight losses ahead to top the 1972-73 Nets for worst start (0-15) in Sixers' history and are the No. 1 contenders to wrest away the crown from those Sixers (9-73) as the worst 82-game season team in NBA history.

By the numbers

5

Consecutive losses the Philadelphia 76ers are away from tying the 1972-72 Sixers for worst start in franchise history (0-15).

7

Consecutive losses Philadelphia needs to tie the 2009-10 Nets for the worst start in NBA history.

15

Consecutive losses the 76ers are away from matching an NBA-record 26 straight losses, set by last season's 76ers squad.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Keep going?

The Sixers are 15 straight losses away from matching an NBA record of 26 straight in a season held by ... set by ... c'mon, the answer is on the tip of your tongue ... Yes! The 2013-14 Philadelphia 76ers.

The Sixers have done so much deep-hole drilling on second-year coach Brett Brown's record, he'd need a Phil Jackson/Michael Jordan run to climb out and see .500 daylight.

The 76ers have sold fans on the "Together We Build" slogan. But



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Former No. 6 overall draft pick Nerlens Noel sits on the bench during the 0-11 Philadelphia 76ers' 88-87 loss to the Rockets last Friday in Houston.

all they've built is a D-League team at NBA prices.

Around Philly, rebuilding has a different nickname: Tankadelphia.

Larry Brown, the vagabond coach who led the Sixers to the 2001 NBA finals, said the last two seasons have "made me sick to my stomach."

"Can you imagine telling Allen Iverson that this is a rebuilding season so we're going to be bad on purpose?" he said last month.

In a column for Derek Jeter's new sports website, The Players'

Tribune, Carter-Williams wrote that he escaped from the grind by watching "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" with his stepfather.

DeGeneres read the column, thanked MCW for watching, and said, "I'm sorry you're having a tough season." She said everyone on the Ellen team was rooting for him — and brought out characters like Giggles the Clown, Nick the Gardener, and Dave the Stagehand.

Somewhere, Hinkie had to wonder if he could sign them to 10-day contracts.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	9	2	.818	—
Boston	4	6	.400	4½
Brooklyn	4	7	.364	5
New York	3	10	.231	7
Philadelphia	0	11	.000	9

Southeast Division

Washington	6	5	.700	—
Miami	5	5	.545	1½
Atlanta	5	5	.500	2
Orlando	5	8	.385	3½
Charlotte	4	8	.333	4

Central Division

Chicago	8	3	.727	—
Milwaukee	7	5	.583	1½
Cleveland	5	5	.500	2½
Indiana	5	7	.417	3½
Detroit	3	9	.250	5½

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	10	2	.833	—
Dallas	9	3	.750	1
Houston	9	3	.750	1
San Antonio	7	4	.636	2½
New Orleans	6	4	.600	3

Northwest Division

Portland	5	3	.727	—
Utah	5	7	.417	3½
Denver	4	7	.364	4
Minnesota	3	7	.300	4½
Oklahoma City	3	10	.231	6

Pacific Division

Golden State	8	2	.800	—
L.A. Clippers	6	4	.600	2
Phoenix	7	5	.583	2
Sacramento	6	5	.545	2½
L.A. Lakers	3	9	.250	6

Tuesday's games

L.A. Lakers 114, Atlanta 109
Milwaukee 117, New York 113
Utah 98, Oklahoma City 81
New Orleans 106, Sacramento 100

Wednesday's games

Boston 101, Philadelphia 90
Dallas 105, Washington 102
L.A. Clippers 114, Orlando 90
Indiana 88, Charlotte 86
San Antonio 92, Cleveland 90
Toronto 96, Memphis 92
Phoenix 88, Detroit 86
Milwaukee 122, Brooklyn 118-3OT
Minnesota 115, New York 99
Denver 107, Oklahoma City 100
L.A. Lakers 98, Houston 92

Thursday's games

L.A. Clippers at Miami

Friday's games

Chicago at Sacramento

Phoenix at Philadelphia

Orlando at Charlotte

Detroit at Atlanta

Milwaukee at Toronto

Brooklyn at Oklahoma City

Boston at Memphis

San Antonio at Minnesota

Cleveland at Washington

L.A. Lakers at Dallas

New Orleans at Denver

Utah at Golden State

Chicago at Portland

Saturday's games

Miami at Orlando

Phoenix at Indiana

Toronto at Cleveland

Philadelphia at New York

Dallas at Houston

Sacramento at Minnesota

Washington at Milwaukee

Brooklyn at San Antonio

New Orleans at Utah

Calendar

Jan. 5 — 10-day contracts can be signed.

Jan. 10 — Contracts guaranteed for rest of season.

Feb. 13-15 — All-Star weekend, New York.

Feb. 19 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).

April 15 — Last day of regular season.

April 18 — Playoffs begin.

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STARS AND STRIPES

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Football: Justin Sego, Kadena

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — It's said that good things come to those who wait. But for Justin Sego, the waiting had to seem interminable.

For three seasons, the Kadena two-way star saw a season where several teammates were suspended for code-of-conduct violations and endured ever-agonizing defeats to arch-rival Kubasaki, including the 2013 Far East Division I title game. All that was "kind of frustrating at first," Sego said, "but then I just realized it doesn't matter the outcome. It matters what you get out of it in the end."

What he got, he said, were a good work ethic and teammates with whom he bonded tightly on and off the field. "I've gained brothers. They're part of my family now. This year, we just happened to come out with a championship. And that's always a plus," he said.

That D-I title came Nov. 8, when Kadena rallied from a six-point deficit, scoring the last 20 points of a 41-27 win at Kubasaki. Sego, who scored four second-half touchdowns, also has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific football Athlete of the Year.

It was in that 2013 defeat against Kubasaki, 34-31 in overtime, and in 28-25 and 15-8 losses to the Dragons in this year's regular season, that the genesis of that elusive D-I title run was born, Sego said.

"We were part of something so close to getting it, it just made us want it even more," Sego said of the 2013 loss. The two regular-season losses "kind of set our heads on straight. All the other

teams we played, we pretty much blew them out. We needed that setback."

No matter the opponent, Sego would always be the first to play for his teammates and possessed courage in large measure, coach Sergio Mendoza said.

"The kid has an enormous heart and having that enormous heart gives him a lot of courage," Mendoza said. "He has this innate ability to sacrifice for others [which] I've only seen a few times in my life. It's about who you're standing next to. Those are the lessons that will translate over into his personal life. He really cares about others."

Mendoza cited the second game with Kubasaki, when Sego fumbled five times. "He took it to heart, he felt he let the team down," he said. "The biggest thing Kadena football is going to miss from him [is] the desire to not just to please but sacrifice for others."

A devout Mormon and an Eagle Scout, Sego also stars for the Panthers in baseball and has been part of three Far East D-I runner-up teams. Such setbacks, be they on the gridiron or diamond, "benefit us, in a way. It makes us realize we need to work harder and it's not going to be handed to us," Sego said.

But at last, Sego can call himself a Far East champion in one sport. He also finished second in rushing in the Pacific, 1,519 yards and 16 touchdowns on 162 carries. He will likely serve a 2-year church mission after graduation, said his father, Marine Master Sgt. Russ Sego.

"I can't believe it's over, but I'm glad it ended this way," Sego said.

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DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena Panthers senior running back Justin Sego.

Volleyball: Kelsey Rogers, Kubasaki

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — It was the stuff of dreams for Kubasaki girls volleyball. A sixth straight Okinawa island title on coach Mike Hogen's six-season watch. A school-first Far East Division I Tournament title. A Most Valuable Player award for team centerpiece Kelsey Rogers.

But it almost didn't happen for Rogers. Six months before the start of the season, the senior outside hitter took an extended break from the sport, saying she instead wanted to prepare for life after high school.

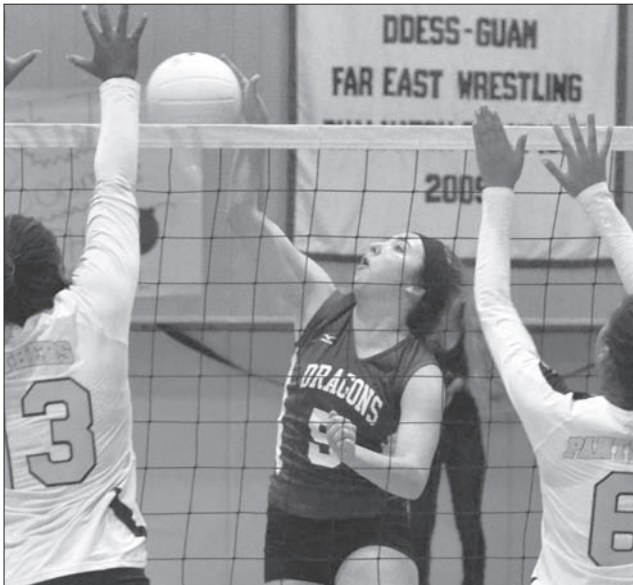
The break did more than that, Rogers and Hogen said — it helped prepare her to be a better leader, able to lift up her teammates, after she had a change of heart and decided to play for the Dragons after all.

"She came out as a senior and she was an incredible leader. She turned it around. I've never seen a bigger turnaround in my entire life in sports, ever," said Hogen, adding that in past seasons, Rogers often being her own worst critic "held her back."

"She's somebody that a coach can talk to ... about higher-level, strategic things, telling her, 'I'm not on the floor, this is what you have to do to keep the team moving forward.' If I don't have that, then I have two timeouts. But she saved those by keeping things together on the floor all the time."

Rogers has been named Stars and Stripes' Pacific girls volleyball Athlete of the Year, a first for a Kubasaki player.

Thinking about her future, col-



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki senior outside hitter Kelsey Rogers, center.

lege and life after high school in general, helped transform Rogers into that leader, she said.

"It helped me relate to people empathetically and understand them more, therefore allowing

me to become a better leader," Rogers said.

One thing that lured Rogers

back to volleyball was when her teammates, playing as the private Shisa Volleyball Club, made their summer trip to the Philippines and Taiwan for matches with international schools.

"Seeing the pictures [from the trip], I definitely regretted it (not going)," she said. "I regretted not playing. And by playing this season [for Kubasaki], I wanted to make up for the lost time. And I'm very happy I did."

Another Shisa trip to Tokyo to play three international schools, made Kubasaki realize it could compete at Far East, Rogers said.

Shisa beat Seisen International and Christian Academy Japan to open the trip Oct. 17-18, then had three-time Far East D-I champion American School In Japan on the ropes, leading 14-11 before dropping the fifth and deciding set 18-16.

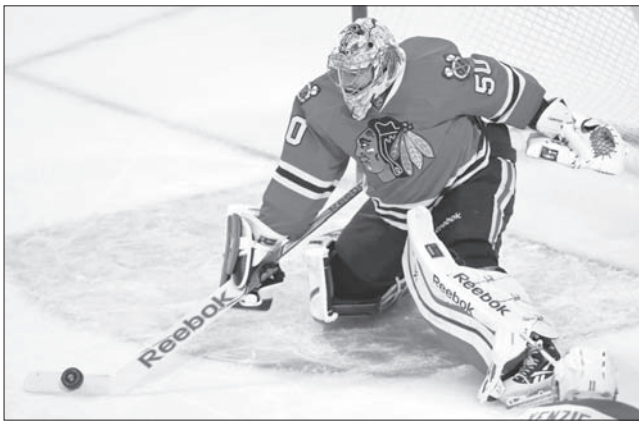
"That was definitely the turning point of the season," Rogers said, acknowledging that ASIJ was viewed as the "gold standard" and the Pacific's "premier program. When we went there and we squared up pretty well against them, we were (saying) we could do this."

And along came Nov. 6 at Yokota, where Rogers and the Dragons cleared that final hurdle, downing the Mustangs in four sets, 13-25, 29-27, 27-25, 26-24 for the school's first D-I title.

"Being able to compare ourselves to them, it was inspiring and it definitely motivated us to become a better team," Rogers said. "And it worked. We did it."

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NHL



ANDREW A. NELLES/AP

Chicago goalie Corey Crawford ranks among the league leaders with a 1.88 goals-against average and .929 save percentage as the Blackhawks embark on six-game road trip.

Blackhawks start circus trip seeking consistency

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — While coach Joel Quenneville tinkers with Chicago's lines and defensive pairings, and the Blackhawks try to recover from a couple of costly injuries, Corey Crawford just keeps plugging along.

The soft-spoken goaltender ranks among the NHL leaders with a career-low 1.88 goals-against average and a .929 save percentage. He also is a key part of the NHL's top penalty-kill unit, turning away 92.3 percent of man-advantage chances.

The Blackhawks are searching for consistency in several areas heading into Thursday night's matchup at Calgary, the opener of a six-game road trip while the circus moves into the United Center. But they look just fine in part with Crawford and his steady, even-keeled approach.

"I think his focus has been excellent every day on the ice, practice days as well," Quenneville said after practice on Wednesday. "He really seems like he's concentrating on the next shot, the next situation. His preparation's been excellent."

The next challenge for Crawford is helping make up for the loss of rookie defenseman Trevor van Riemsdyk, who broke his left kneecap when he took a puck off his leg during Sunday's 6-2 victory over Dallas. The 23-year-old van Riemsdyk will have surgery on Thursday and is expected to be sidelined

for three to four months.

Van Riemsdyk had been a pleasant surprise for Chicago, playing mostly with David Rundblad or Michal Rozsival on the third defensive pairing. Adam Clendening was promoted from the minors on Tuesday and likely will make his NHL debut on the upcoming road trip.

"I've just been working on my game and these guys here, to their credit, have probably the best six around the league," said Clendening, a second-round pick in the 2011 draft who could see some time at the point on Chicago's second power-play unit.

"So it's definitely been a little bit of a waiting game, but again, had bounce for a guy and hopefully I can just fill in and help them not miss a beat."

The challenging stretch comes at an important time for the Blackhawks (10-7-1), who have won three of four after a slump of six losses in nine games. Nashville and St. Louis are off to a strong start in the Central, and Chicago also needs to make up ground in the Western Conference.

The circus trip has been kind to the Blackhawks in the past. They went 6-1 on the trip last season to improve to 22-11-4 on the circus run since captain Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane entered the league in the 2007-08 season.

"There's a lot of experience and guys that have been through these situations. A lot of us have been on these long road trips," said Kane, who turned 26 on Wednesday. "We enjoy them."

'A lot of us have been on these long road trips. We enjoy them.'

Patrick Kane
Chicago forward

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Tampa Bay	20	14	5	1	29	55/31
Boston	20	13	5	2	28	73/54
Detroit	19	8	4	5	23	50/42
Ottawa	17	8	5	4	24	47/45
Toronto	19	9	8	2	20	58/60
Florida	18	5	9	4	17	35/42
Buffalo	20	5	13	2	12	34/69

Metropolitan Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
N.Y. Islanders	18	12	6	0	24	59/52
N.Y. Rangers	19	8	7	4	20	52/58
Washington	18	8	7	3	19	52/50
New Jersey	19	9	9	1	21	47/45
Philadelphia	17	7	8	2	16	51/55
Carolina	18	5	9	4	13	43/62
Columbus	18	6	11	1	13	44/64

Western Conference

Central Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Nashville	18	12	5	1	26	52/37
St. Louis	18	12	5	1	25	49/35
Winnipeg	20	10	7	3	23	40/43
Chicago	18	10	7	1	21	31/36
Minnesota	17	10	7	0	20	50/39
Colorado	19	8	8	5	17	47/61
Dallas	19	6	9	4	16	53/67

Pacific Division						
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Anaheim	20	11	4	5	27	54/50
Vancouver	19	13	6	0	26	63/43
Calgary	20	12	6	2	26	53/43
Los Angeles	19	10	5	4	24	50/42
San Jose	21	10	8	2	22	57/57
Arizona	19	8	9	2	18	48/59
Edmonton	19	6	11	2	14	48/66

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime.

Tuesday's games
Calgary 4, Anaheim 3, SO
Boston 2, St. Louis 0
N.Y. Islanders 5, Tampa Bay 2
Detroit 5, Columbus 0
Buffalo 4, San Jose 1
Nashville 9, Toronto 2
Pittsburgh 4, Montreal 0
Winnipeg 1, New Jersey 1
Carolina 6, Dallas 4
Washington 2, Arizona 1, OT
Los Angeles 5, Florida 2

Wednesday's games
N.Y. Rangers 2, Philadelphia 0
Vancouver 5, Edmonton 4

Thursday's games
Minnesota at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Toronto
St. Louis at Montreal
Nashville at Ottawa
Detroit at Winnipeg
Arizona at Dallas
Washington at Colorado
Chicago at Calgary
Anheim at Vancouver
Carolina at Los Angeles
Florida at San Jose

Friday's games
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo
N.Y. Islanders at Pittsburgh
Boston at Columbus
New Jersey at Edmonton

Saturday's games
St. Louis at Ottawa
Montreal at Boston
Detroit at Toronto
Minnesota at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders
Columbus at Philadelphia
Buffalo at Washington
Florida at Nashville
Los Angeles at Dallas
Carolina at Anaheim
New Jersey at Calgary
Chicago at Edmonton
Arizona at San Jose

Sunday's games
Montreal at N.Y. Rangers
St. Louis at Arizona
Chicago at Vancouver

Monday's games
Pittsburgh at Boston
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders
Ottawa at San Jose
Minnesota at Florida

Scoring leaders

Through Nov. 19						
Player	GP	G	A	Pts		
Sidney Crosby, Pit	17	7	15	26		
Jakub Voracek, Phil	17	7	19	26		
Tyler Segen, NYI	19	14	10	24		
Steven Stamkos, TB	20	12	10	22		
Phil Kessel, NYI	19	11	11	22		
Phil Forsberg, Nash	8	9	13	22		
Vladimir Tarasenko, STL	18	10	11	21		
Mark Giordano, Cal	20	6	15	21		
Tyler Johnson, TB	20	6	15	21		
Claude Giroux, Phi	17	16	11	21		
Rick Nash, NYR	19	13	7	20		
Paul Stastny, Pit	17	11	11	22		
Evgen Malkin, Pit	17	7	13	20		
Ryan Johansen, CIs	18	6	14	20		

Irbe briefly returns

By JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The goalie equipment didn't exactly fit Arturs Irbe. What did were the familiar competitive emotions the 47-year-old once enjoyed during his NHL playing days.

"Once a goalie, always a goalie," Irbe said with a wide grin.

Seven years after Irbe thought he hung up his pads for good, the Buffalo Sabres goalie coach came out of retirement for a few hours on Wednesday night. Irbe signed what's called a tryout contract to serve as Buffalo's backup after starter Michael Neuvirth was hurt during the first period of a 4-1 win over San Jose.

"I said, 'Ted, I haven't donned a uniform in seven years,'" Irbe said, recalling the conversation he had with Sabres coach Ted Nolan during the first intermission. "And he said, 'It doesn't matter. Now you will.'"

With backup goalie Jonas Enroth taking over, Irbe scrambled to find equipment that fit his 5-foot-8 frame.

Irbe pulled on a pair of Enroth's pads because the two, coincidentally, are about the same size. The glove and blocker he wore were ones left behind by former Sabres starter Ryan Miller last season. As for the mask, Irbe doesn't know where the equipment staff found it.

By the start of the third period, Irbe was standing in the hallway leading to the Sabres' bench, psyching up for the slight possibility that he might play.

"It was the atmosphere, that feeling that you're back there by the bench and the game is going on and you're pulling for your team," Irbe said. "I was thinking how I would approach it if I had to go in, visualizing: the best part of the game."

The Latvian-born Irbe broke into the NHL with San Jose in 1991-92. He eventually split 13 seasons between four teams, including the last six with Carolina, where he helped the Hurricanes win the Eastern Conference championship in 2002.

He then spent three years playing in Europe before turning his attention to coaching.

Irbe was hired by the Sabres last summer.

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College GameDay



RON JENKINS, FORT WORTH
STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

Player to watch

Bryce Petty QB|Baylor

The senior is 10th in the FBS with 14.76 passing yards per completion, and 11th with 302.6 yards passing per game. He has thrown a TD in 21 straight games in which he has played. Petty leads the Big 12 in passing efficiency 152.2, the country's 16th-best mark. Petty will lead the defending Big 12 champion in its final three-game push of the regular season against struggling Oklahoma State, hoping to win out and boost their standings in the College Football Playoff ranks.

Oklahoma State at No. 6 Baylor
1:30 a.m. Sunday, CFT; 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Japan/Korea, AFN-Xtra



LUIS SINCO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

UCLA running back Myles Jack dives into the end zone for a touchdown against USC in last year's game between the conference rivals. UCLA won, 35-14. The No. 11 Bruins and No. 24 Trojans meet again on Saturday in a game which could determine who wins the South split in the Pac-12 championship game.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
	Conf.	W	All
Florida St.	7	0	10
Clemson	6	2	7
Louisville	5	3	7
Boston College	3	3	6
NC State	1	6	5
Syracuse	1	5	3
Wake Forest	0	6	2
Coastal Division			
	Conf.	W	All
Georgia Tech.	6	2	9
Duke	4	2	6
Miami	3	2	6
North Carolina	3	3	5
Virginia Tech.	2	4	5
Pittsburgh	2	4	4
Virginia	2	4	6

Game of the week: Louisville at Notre Dame. The Cardinals, who cracked the playoff rankings this week at No. 24, face a Notre Dame team that is jockeying for position in the ACC's bowl lineup. Louisville no longer has the league's top total defense but the Cardinals have forced seven turnovers in their last two games while the Fighting Irish have scored at least 27 points in every game but one.

Inside the numbers: The ACC could have two quarterbacks rush for 1,000 yards in the same season for the first time. Boston College's Tyler Murphy has 1,006 yards rushing while Georgia Tech's Justin Thomas has 827 with at least two games left.

Player to watch: Virginia Tech DEs Dadi Nicolas and Ken Ekenam. Nicolas ranks third in the ACC with 7.5 sacks while Ekenam has 6 and they could make things tough on a young Wake Forest offensive line that has allowed 37 sacks.

Big Ten			
East			
	Conf.	W	All
Ohio St.	7	0	1
Michigan St.	5	1	8
Maryland	3	3	4
Michigan	3	3	5
Penn St.	2	4	4
Rutgers	2	4	4
Indiana	0	6	3
West			
	Conf.	W	All
Nebraska	5	1	8
Minnesota	4	2	7
Wisconsin	4	2	7
Iowa	4	2	7
Northwestern	2	4	6
Illinois	1	5	4
Purdue	1	5	3

Game of the week: Minnesota at No. 21 Nebraska. To reach the Big Ten championship game, Nebraska would have to win out against Minnesota and Iowa and have Wisconsin lose its last two, against Iowa and Minnesota. The Gophers bring in an offense committed to the run similar to Wisconsin, which ripped the Huskers 59-24 last week.

Inside the numbers: Last week's performances by Indiana's Tevin Coleman and Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon marked the first time since 2002 that Big Ten running backs produced two performances of 300 or more yards in a single season.

Player to watch: Ohio State quarterback J.T. Barrett. The freshman has now accounted for a school-record 38 total touchdowns this season. That is tied with Oregon's Marcus Mariota for the national lead this season and is more touchdowns through 10 starts than any FBS quarterback in at least the last 10 years.

Big 12			
	Conf.	W	All
TCU	6	1	9
Baylor	5	1	8
Kansas St.	5	1	6
Texas	5	3	7
Oklahoma	4	3	7
Oklahoma St.	4	3	4
West Virginia	2	6	4
Texas Tech.	1	6	3
Kansas	1	6	3
Iowa St.	0	6	2

Game of the week: No. 6 Baylor vs. Oklahoma State. Baylor (8-1) is a four-touchdown favorite at home against the slumping Cowboys, and the playoff-hopeful Bears likely need that kind of outcome Saturday night. Baylor remained seventh in the playoff rankings after being off last weekend, which followed their 48-14 win at Oklahoma. Oklahoma State (5-5) has lost four straight games and the Cowboys have to win at Baylor or Oklahoma to get bowl eligible for the ninth season in a row.

Inside the numbers: Texas Tech (3-7, 1-6 Big 12) is already assured only its second losing record since the Big 12's inaugural season in 1996. The Red Raiders were 5-7 in 2011.

Player to watch: Oklahoma State defensive end Emmanuel Ogbah. The sophomore leads the Big 12 with 10 sacks and 16½ tackles for loss. He is the first Cowboys player with at least 10 sacks since 2003.

Pac-12			
North			
	Conf.	W	All
Oregon	6	1	9
Stanford	3	4	5
California	3	5	5
Washington	2	5	6
Washington St.	2	5	3
Oregon St.	2	5	5
South			
	Conf.	W	All
Southern Cal	6	2	7
UCLA	5	2	8
Arizona St.	5	2	8
Arizona	5	2	8
Utah	4	3	7
Colorado	0	7	2

Game of the week: No. 24 Southern Cal at No. 11 UCLA. The Bruins are the front-runner in the South division race. Win the next two games and they are in the championship game. The Trojans' chances of winning the division hinge on beating UCLA; lose, and they are done. If USC, wins they still need Arizona State to lose at least one remaining game.

Inside the numbers: Utah junior punter Tom Hackett is third in the nation, averaging 46.8 yards per punt. He leads the Pac-12 with 29 kicks placed inside the 20, and 20 punts of 50 or more yards.

Player to watch: QB Brett Hundley. The national leader in pass completion percentage takes pride in his perfect record against USC, memorably declaring that "UCLA runs L.A. now" after last season's victory at the Coliseum. Hundley also would become the Bruins' career leader in total offense with 260 more yards.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force
at San Diego State
Last week: Beat
Nevada 49-38
Next game: vs.
Colorado State



Army
vs. Fordham
Last week: Lost at
Western Kentucky,
52-24
Next game: vs.
Navy, Dec. 13 at Baltimore



Navy
Does not play
Last week: Beat
Georgia Southern
52-19
Next game: at
South Alabama, Nov. 28

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday

No. 12 Kansas State at West Virginia
No. 25 Duke vs. North Carolina

Saturday

No. 1 Florida State vs. Boston College
No. 2 Alabama vs. Western Carolina
No. 3 Oregon vs. Colorado
No. 4 Mississippi State vs. Vanderbilt
No. 6 Baylor vs. Oklahoma State
No. 7 Ohio State vs. Indiana
No. 8 Mississippi at Arkansas
No. 9 Georgia vs. Charleston Southern
No. 10 Michigan State vs. Rutgers
No. 11 UCLA vs. No. 24 Southern Cal
No. 13 Arizona State vs. Washington State
No. 14 Wisconsin at Iowa
No. 15 Arizona at No. 20 Utah
No. 16 Auburn vs. Samford
No. 18 Marshall at UAB
No. 19 Missouri at Tennessee
No. 21 Nebraska vs. Minnesota
No. 22 Colorado State vs. New Mexico
No. 23 Oklahoma vs. Kansas

SEC

East			
	Conf.	W	All
Missouri	5	1	8
Georgia	6	2	8
Florida	5	3	8
South Carolina	5	3	5
Tennessee	4	4	5
Kentucky	2	6	5
Vanderbilt	0	6	3
West			
	Conf.	W	All
Alabama	6	1	9
Mississippi St.	5	2	8
Mississippi	4	2	8
Auburn	4	3	7
Texas A&M	4	3	7
LSU	3	4	7
Arkansas	1	5	5

Game of the week: No. 8 Mississippi at Arkansas. The Razorbacks finally broke their 17-game SEC losing streak last weekend by beating LSU 17-0. Now their eyeing a second upset in a row when they host the Rebels. Ole Miss will use the nation's best defense — which is giving up just 11.9 points per game — to try and stop Arkansas' productive running duo of Jonathan Williams and Alex Collins.

Numbers game: Arkansas is one of only two teams in the nation with two running backs to rush for over 800 yards this season. Williams has 832 yards rushing while Collins has 886.

Player to watch: Mississippi State QB Dak Prescott. He had a rough day against Alabama last weekend, throwing three interceptions in a 25-20 loss. His play during the next few weeks against Vanderbilt and rival Mississippi will be key in the Bulldogs' push for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Kansas State wants to prove resiliency

By JOHN RABY

The Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Kansas State coach Bill Snyder prefers to find incentive from the disappointment of the Wildcats' first Big 12 loss.

Tossed out of the conference lead after a 41-20 drubbing by No. 5 TCU two weeks ago, No. 12 Kansas State still has plenty to play for.

The Wildcats (7-2, 5-1 Big 12, No. 12 CFP) are tied for second place with Baylor and can move into a first-place tie with the idle Horned Frogs when they play at West Virginia on Thursday night. Rather than his players dwelling on the past, "I'd like to think that it's evolved into a determination and excitement" for West Virginia, Snyder said. "They tell me that's where they are, but everybody's a little bit different. It appears that they're focused on what they're doing, so I trust them for that."

Kansas State is one of the nation's better rush defenses at 127 yards per game yet allowed TCU to amass 334 yards on the ground.

Defensive back Morgan Burns said the Wildcats aren't about to let that happen again.

"We will bounce back and show resiliency," Burns said.

West Virginia (6-4, 4-3) has seen its own disappointment of late.

The Mountaineers became bowl eligible after eight games, a solid improvement for a team that went 4-8 a year ago. But a four-game winning streak was followed by losses to TCU and Texas that sent West Virginia tumbling to the middle of the Big 12 pack.

The Mountaineers will use the final home game for 19 seniors as motivation to try to improve their bowl standing.

"The mindset is to show the nation that we still have a lot to prove and that this season isn't over," said West Virginia wide receiver Jordan Thompson.

Kansas State will finish the regular season at home against Kansas on Nov. 29 and at No. 6 Baylor on Dec. 6, while West Virginia plays at Iowa State on Nov. 29.

Here are a few other things to watch for when Kansas State and West Virginia meet on a Friday night in Morgantown:

Lockett vs. White: Two of the nation's top receivers are getting another chance to perform on a national stage. Kansas State's Tyler Lockett broke his father Kevin's school record for career receiving yards two weeks ago. The younger Lockett needs 16 catches and three TDs to break two other career records held by his dad from 1993-96. West Virginia's Kevin White is third nationally with 1,207 receiving yards and set a school record with 16 receptions against Texas.

Stiffed Trickett: West Virginia quarterback Clint Trickett has been held below 300 passing yards in his last three games after surpassing 300 in eight straight games before that. He's thrown one touchdown pass and three interceptions in the last two games. He also fumbled the ball away and was tackled in the end zone for a safety against Texas.

Minus the run: Both teams will try to get their running backs going after recent struggles. West Virginia managed just 42 rushing yards in the first half against Texas and didn't start piling up yards until the fourth quarter when the Longhorns had a 16-point lead. Kansas State was limited to 34 yards on 19 carries against TCU.

Walk-on success: Kansas State linebacker Jonathan Truman is a semifinalist for the Bursiworth Award, a national honor given to a player who began his career as a walk-on. The senior leads the Wildcats with 85 tackles and has a fumble recovery this season.



NAM Y. HUN/AP

Notre Dame's Chris Brown fumbles the ball as he is tackled by Northwestern safety Ibraheim Campbell.

Irish look to cut mistakes

By TOM COYNE

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame is suddenly a team on the brink because it can't overcome its own mistakes.

The Fighting Irish have been plagued by turnovers the past seven games, but the mistakes snowballed in an overtime loss to Northwestern last week. A bobbled snap on the point-after attempt that led to the Wildcats defense returning it for a two-point conversion. Ten players on the field for a 60-yard pass completion by Northwestern. Costly penalties, missed assignments, two missed field goals and coach Brian Kelly deciding to go for a two-point conversion when the Irish probably should have gone for one are just some of the examples.

Kelly said Tuesday that the mistakes began to affect everybody.

"I'm not getting paid to make stupid decisions like that," he said. "But you fall into that, right?

And so I can't let our players fall into that. So that's what we talked about this week. We cannot let that affect the way we play. We've got to go play and we can't let those things affect us."

The Irish have turned the ball over 23 times, 19 by Everett Golson in the last seven games.

"We're looking for answers. You've got some good ones, I'm all ears," Kelly said. "You guys want to write something down on a piece of paper, slide it to me, I'll take it. We're searching."

The Irish also are looking for answers on defense, where they've allowed 211 points the past five games — the most points in a five-game stretch ever against Notre Dame. That's 45 points more than the Irish gave up in all of 2012. It's also 33 points more than this week's opponent, Louisville, has allowed all season.

The Irish will face the Cardinals without their best defensive lineman, Sheldon Day, who is likely out until a bowl game with

a sprained knee. Backup defensive lineman Daniel Cage also is out for the Louisville game with the same injury.

Kelly said Golson, who sprained his throwing shoulder against Northwestern, has shown "no ill effects" and is expected to play.

Notre Dame's ability to stop making mistakes and stop giving up big points likely will determine the outcome of the season.

Kelly mentioned earlier in the week how the Irish were close to being 9-1. The Fighting Irish (7-3) were a play away from beating No. 1 Florida State a month ago and narrowly lost to Northwestern despite all the mistakes.

But the Irish are probably just as close to being 5-5. Golson completed a 23-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-11 with 61 seconds left to beat Stanford 17-14. The Irish also beat North Carolina 50-43 after a controversial roughing penalty late in the third quarter kept a touchdown drive alive.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ACC parity obscuring breakout performers

With No. 1 FSU hogging headlines, some standouts being overlooked

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — There are stars in the Atlantic Coast Conference who don't wear garnet and gold if you know where to look.

The thing is, nobody's looking. Not hard anyway.

The ACC's top running back toils in relative obscurity, his muscular brilliance overshadowed by his team's inability to get out of its own way: Pittsburgh's James Conner.

The league's most dynamic quarterback not named Jameis Winston spends his Saturdays trying to overcome the sins of a defense that can't stop anybody: North Carolina's Marquise Williams.

The nation's leading interceptor is a sophomore who was virtually unknown two months ago and plays for a school obsessed with the head coach's offensive genius: Louisville's Gerod Holliman.

And the conference's leading tackler is an anonymous everyman who has helped engineer one of college football's most unlikely success stories: Duke's David Helton.

It's not hard to figure out why they remain unknown. The ACC technically consists of two divisions on paper but is really two separate leagues at the moment: No. 1 Florida State and everybody else.

The parity that has taken over the new-look 14-team conference has cultivated some interesting storylines but hardly any sizzle for the impact players who are part of



ROBERT WILLEY, THE NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Pittsburgh's James Conner is chasing Heisman Trophy winner and NFL Hall of Famer Tony Dorsett's school record of 22 scores, set in 1976.

the muddled middle.

Pitt's Conner is tracking down the likes of Tony Dorsett in the school record books. The sophomore running back needs one touchdown over the final two weeks to equal the Heisman Trophy winner and Hall of Famer's school mark of 22 scores set in 1976.

That's the year the Panthers won the national title and Dorsett clutched the Heisman Trophy.

Yet Conner won't find himself anywhere near New York City when the award for the

nation's top player is announced in December, even though the 250-pound converted defensive end is third in the country with 1,562 yards rushing and perhaps first in bruises caused.

"It would be nice, but it is what it is," Conner said.

Conner instead will likely see Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon be among the Heisman finalists after Gordon put up an FBS-record 408 yards last week against Nebraska. Conner joked Gordon's remarkable day looked "like a typo," though the same could be said

'Teams in the SEC and the Big Ten, they get a lot of hype and they deserve it. The ACC has great players, too.'

James Conner
Pittsburgh running back

about Conner, who already has three 200-yard games this season.

"Our numbers are kind of similar," Conner said.

Everywhere except the win/loss column. While Gordon and the 14th-ranked Badgers are 8-2 and steaming toward a major bowl, Conner and the Panthers (4-6) need to beat Syracuse and Miami to become bowl eligible.

"I'll just continue to try and leave it out on the field," Conner said with a shrug.

It's a refrain echoed by Conner's ACC brethren, guys whose highlight-reel plays are often left on the cutting room floor due in part to the inability for any program outside of Tallahassee to gain national traction.

Williams is putting up Winston-esque numbers for the Tar Heels (5-5), ranking second in passing yards and total offense and seventh in yards rushing. He's the main reason the embattled program is within a win of bowl eligibility and yet the junior underestimates as long as Winston is around he's simply another face in the crowd.

"It's just the name of the game," Williams said. "Maybe I need to do more than what I'm doing, get my name on the map. Hey, I'm up for the challenge."

Williams is hardly alone in that category. "Teams in the SEC and the Big Ten, they get a lot of hype and they deserve it," Conner said. "The ACC has great players, too."

Now comes the hard part: winning enough games for people to take notice.

Hole: Badgers' offense running on all cylinders behind RB Gordon



MORRY GASH/AP

Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon celebrates after beating Nebraska 59-24 on Saturday in Madison, Wis. Gordon rushed for a major college-record 408 yards and four touchdowns in the game.

FROM BACK PAGE

That's quite the astounding figure in and of itself, to overpower front sevens enough to the point where a line can confidently say it helped the tailback gain 7 yards on a carry.

"We got him to the unblocked lineman or unblocked defender, which is 7 yards. The next 38 are on Melvin," Havenstein said. "Those numbers that Melvin puts up are definitely because of Melvin."

But the talk was much different in Week 2.

As improbable as it now sounds, Gordon gained just 38 yards on 17 carries against Western Illinois on Sept. 6. Making matters more mystifying was that Western Illinois is a lower-division school. Its defense stacked the box to stuff Gordon.

The next week, Gordon ran for 253 yards and five touchdowns on just 13 carries against Bowling Green. He has rushed for at least 122 yards in each game since.

"Just those guys have been attacking. I don't know what happened in (the Western Illinois) game," Gordon said. "The whole offense, we probably just weren't clicking or something, but since then those guys have really got it together and really focused and

they've been working hard ... They make it easy on me."

The offense, admittedly, has been a work in progress. Early on, the Badgers were still going with Tanner McEvoy as their full-time starting quarterback.

Joel Stave has reclaimed the job, but Wisconsin has settled comfortably into a platoon at the position with McEvoy entering as a change-of-pace running threat.

Havenstein said the front five from week to week has focused on fundamentals and technique, "however much of that is a boring answer, it's kind of the truth."

They have improved each week, much like the rest of the team, including the defense and special teams.

"They come to work every single day and probably what most of us would envision in our minds is a Wisconsin offensive lineman being a tough, rugged kid," coach Gary Andersen said. "Also their care factor, not to just run the ball well but to play well and be part of the Wisconsin offensive line tradition means an awful lot to those kids."

Their biggest reward might be an honor they would never personally receive — if Gordon were to win the Heisman.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



TED RICHARDSON/AP

East Carolina's Justin Hardy catches a touchdown pass ahead of Connecticut's Jhavar Williams on Oct. 23 in Greenville, N.C. Hardy needs just four catches to become the career receptions leader in the FBS.

Pirates' Hardy on verge of all-time catch record

By Aaron Beard
The Associated Press

Justin Hardy is close to completing a remarkable climb at East Carolina: from walk-on receiver to the all-time receptions leader in college football's Bowl Subdivision.

The fifth-year senior needs four catches — less than half his weekly average — to set the record Saturday against Tulane.

"I really don't think about it," he said. "The more I think about it, the more I'd probably be like, 'Well, I've got to do this, I've got to do that.' I can't get away from the game."

The 6-foot, 188-pound Hardy entered the year needing 84 catches to break the record of 349 set by Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles in 2011, well within reach considering he had 88 catches as a sophomore and 114 as a junior.

Hardy, who may not be the most athletic player on the field, has a knack for getting open. He's also benefited from playing in a pass-heavy attack.

He has had four games with at least 10 catches, including his 15-catch, 188-yard effort last week at Cincinnati. He has 80 catches for 1,002 yards and seven touchdowns for the Pirates (6-3, 3-2 American Athletic Conference), ranking third nationally in receptions per game (8.9) and eighth in average yards receiving (11.3).

He's been a vital part of East Carolina's offense, so much so that normally good-natured

By the numbers

349

Record for career receptions in the FBS, held by Oklahoma's Ryan Broyles.

4

Number of receptions East Carolina's Justin Hardy needs to overtake Broyles.

114

Number of receptions Hardy had as a junior. He has 80 this season.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

coach Ruffin McNeill has been vocal with his displeasure that Hardy wasn't a semifinalist for the Biletnikoff Award presented to the nation's top receiver. AAC Commissioner Mike Aresco weighed in Wednesday, too, issuing a statement saying Hardy deserved to be included and that "anyone who has seen Justin play this year would have to conclude that he is among the best receivers in the nation."

No one has to sell Tulane coach Curtis Johnson on Hardy's potential. The receiver had career highs of 17 catches and 230 yards receiving in last year's meeting.

"I know the NFL scouts are very high on him," Johnson said in a statement provided by the school. "He's a terrific receiver."

Hardy was an overlooked recruit with one Division II scholarship offer from Fayetteville

State out of West Craven High, a school that runs the spread of offense about 25 miles southeast of the ECU campus in Vanceboro.

He ended up as a preferred walk-on at East Carolina, which needed receivers once McNeill took over in January 2010 and installed the spread. He worked on the scout team that first year, earned a scholarship the following season and has been in a leading role ever since.

Hardy has generally deflected questions this season about the record chase.

He said he'll just focus on doing his job Saturday, then move on with a record he'll savor more after the season.

"I probably won't even think about it," he said. "Once game-time starts, it's like I'm locked in. I don't hear anything else outside of what I'm doing."

Saturday: Calm before the storm

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

We interrupt this exciting college football season, the race for the first playoff and the Heisman Trophy chase, to bring you this Saturday.

By chance and by plan, this weekend's college football schedule does not have much to get excited about.

Most of the Southeastern Conference is taking its November break, playing a push-over to prepare for a rivalry game (No. 2 Alabama vs. Western Carolina and No. 15 Auburn vs. Samford) or taking the week off altogether.

In other cases the schedule just didn't pan out. No. 4 Mississippi State against Vanderbilt. Yuck. No. 3 Oregon against Colorado. Pass. No. 6 Baylor against Oklahoma State. Yawn. No. 7 Ohio State against Indiana. Ugh.

Out of the top seven teams in the latest College Football Playoff rankings only one is favored by fewer than 20 points: No. 1 Florida State is minus-19½ at home against Boston College.

There's some action in the Pac-12 South keeping an eye on: No. 24 Southern California is at No. 11 UCLA and No. 15 Arizona visits No. 20 Utah. All of those teams plus Arizona State are still alive to win one of the best divisions in the country.

Over in the Big Ten West, Minnesota vs. No. 21 Nebraska and No. 14 Wisconsin at Iowa will help determine a close division race, but other than watching what Badgers record-breaking star Melvin Gordon does for an encore, that's not exactly must-see TV.

If you wanted to have a fall wedding and not tick off your college football fan friends and relatives, this would be the week to do it.

"In the fall I may have a few appointments on the weekend,

typically no wedding," said wedding planner Christina Sloan, who runs Christina Sloan Events in Birmingham, Ala. "This weekend I have one on Thursday, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. I've had inquiries for more, I just can't take all of them on."

It is the kind of weekend where ESPN's "College GameDay" goes to Harvard-Yale. The Crimson and the Bulldogs are playing with the Ivy League title at stake for both teams for the first time since 2007. Pretty cool, but if GameDay is in Cambridge, Mass., on the second-to-last weekend of November it's probably a slow Saturday around the country.

'This weekend I have one on Thursday, one on Saturday and one on Sunday.'

Christina Sloan
Wedding planner commenting on the unusually busy fall weekend

One of the other candidates for GameDay this week was a trip to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx, where Lehigh and Lafayette play college football's oldest rivalry for the 150th time.

Call it the Calm-Before-the-Storm Saturday. Thanksgiving weekend is packed with rivalry games and huge matchups, starting Thanksgiving night with No. 5 TCU facing Texas.

The next weekend is Championship Week, featuring all the FBS conference title games and culminating with the selection of the teams to play in the first College Football Playoff. Like those SEC teams, fans can use this weekend to recharge for the stretch drive.

Of course, just because the schedule is lacking highly ranked teams playing big games doesn't mean something dramatic can't happen. Maybe one of those double-digit underdogs can pull an upset and shake things up.

If that happens, Sloan has her clients covered with a tailgate station and televisions to watch the games.

"Even though it's a slow weekend," she said, "they still make sure they get their football in."



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

Running back T.J. Yeldon and Alabama will have a "pushover" game this week, facing Western Carolina in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

NFL

Rookie RB Hill boosting Bengals

By JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Jeremy Hill didn't expect to get much of a chance as a rookie because the Cincinnati Bengals had Giovani Bernard entrenched as the starter. With six games left, he's leading all NFL rookies in rushing.

The second-round pick ran for 152 yards during a 27-10 win at New Orleans on Sunday, his second big game in the last three. He also ran for 154 yards against Jacksonville on Nov. 2.

Hill leads all NFL rookies with 556 yards rushing and five touchdowns. He has two of the top 10 games overall in the NFL this season. He joined Paul Robinson as the only Bengals rookies with a pair of 150-yard games — Robinson did it in 1968, the franchise's inaugural season.

It's far more than he expected. "Being in the situation I'm in, not being the every-down guy, I really didn't think I would have a chance to get that," Hill said on Wednesday. "I've just been focused on doing what I can to help the team. I never really thought I'd be in the conversation for that type of stuff."

He is now. But the future is uncertain.

Bernard has missed the last three games with shoulder and hip injuries, giving Hill a chance to emerge. Hill has carried 63 times for 361 yards and two touchdowns in his absence, helping the Bengals (6-3-1) win two of the three games.

Bernard returned to practice on a limited basis Wednesday. It's unclear whether he'll be back for a game on Sunday at Houston (5-5).

"He had a tremendous practice today and we'll see where this thing goes because you never know what will happen tomorrow morning when you wake up," offensive coordinator Hue Jackson said after practice.

Jackson sidestepped a question about whether Bernard would be the starter again when he's healthy. He said Hill will continue with an increased role in the offense when Bernard returns.

"I think he deserves it," Jackson said.

The Bengals drafted Hill to give them a power back who can also catch passes. The offense has been wildly inconsistent — Cincinnati ranks 17th overall in the



ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

Bengals running back Jeremy Hill carries the ball as Saints inside linebacker David Hawthorne tries to bring him down on Sunday. Hill leads all rookies in the league with 556 yards rushing and five TDs.

league — but the running game has provided some of its best moments.

And Hill has provided its two biggest games.

"What I've been saying since day one is run the football," Hill said. "Everyone knows I can do that. It's just the other little things I've been trying to focus on and get better at — play fakes, helping

Andy (Dalton) in the play-action game, things of that nature."

Left tackle Andrew Whitworth hopes the Bengals keep stressing the run as they go through a tough closing stretch of their schedule — five of the last seven games on the road. In their most lopsided losses, the Bengals have given up a lot of yards rushing and gotten very few.

"When you're throwing the ball, you can't be as physical," Whitworth said. "It's a mentality of going into a game and saying, 'Hey, this is the first thing we're going to do.'"

"As a team, it seems the games that we go in [determined] to run the ball and stop the run we play better."

Brady likely to have increased role against Lions

By HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady didn't have to throw much or especially well for the New England Patriots to get their sixth straight win.

He figures to play a bigger role when they go for their seventh.

One week after they relied on the running game — 37 carries for 201 yards and four touchdowns by Jonas Gray — in a 42-20 win over Indianapolis, the Patriots face the NFL's top-ranked run defense on Sunday when they meet the Detroit Lions.

And Brady is determined to play better than he did in the first half against the Colts when he threw two interceptions with no touchdowns and completed just 10 of 19 passes for 84 yards.

"When you're there at halftime and I didn't play as well as I'm capable, then I've got to do a better job," Brady said Wednesday. "It always starts with me, and that's where my focus is. Hopefully, I put together four quarters of good stuff this weekend, not just two."

He rebounded in the second half, leading touchdown drives on the Patriots' first four possessions — two scoring passes and two short runs by Gray.

New England (8-2) ran more than it passed for just the third time this season — 45 running plays and 30 passes.

"Whether we're balanced or



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady expects to play a bigger part in guiding the Patriots offense on Sunday against the Lions, who have the NFL's top-ranked run defense.

not, we'll do whatever's going to get us a win," tight end Michael Hoomanawanui said.

With the Lions (7-3) allowing a league-low 68.8 yards rushing per game, the Patriots' best route to success should be through the air. That means their vastly improved offensive line might not do as much of what it prefers, block

on running plays.

"It's just the mentality of linemen," left guard Dan Connolly said. "We like the physical nature of football and you get that more in the run game."

The Lions also have an outstanding pass defense, the fifth stingiest in the NFL, and have given up the fewest overall yards

'It always starts with me, and that's where my focus is.'

Tom Brady

New England Patriots quarterback

and points in the league.

"These guys do a great job on first down," Patriots coach Bill Belichick said. "They create more negative runs than any other team in the league. They get teams in a lot of second- and third-and-long situations. Those are usually not only very difficult, but that's also where they get some turnovers, too, strip-sacks and tipped balls and interceptions."

The Patriots, though, have been getting offensive contributions from more players as the wins have piled up.

Brady looked to Julian Edelman and Rob Gronkowski for most of his passes early in the season. Since then, Brandon LaFell and Tim Wright have been targeted more often, and Gronkowski's contribution has grown after a slow start coming off knee surgery.

"The more of those guys that can be involved, the better we're going to be as an offense," Brady said. "Who knows who it's going to be on a particular week? You really have to see how the game plays out, and if things are working like they were last weekend,

then you've got to stay with it."

On the first possession at Indianapolis, Gray ran four times for 30 yards and a touchdown. On the second, he ran just once for 20 yards before Brady threw an interception on the next play.

New England has routed the other three AFC division leaders, 43-17 over Cincinnati and 43-21 over Denver before the 22-point win over Indianapolis.

Next up is the co-leader of the NFC North.

"Last week doesn't mean anything, so I don't really care about that," Belichick said. "That has no impact on the game. What we have to do is figure out how to play against Detroit and it's hard. They're good at everything."

Defensively at least.

On offense, the Lions are 21st in yards gained and tied for 30th in rushing. Only six teams have fewer points.

But the way their defense has dominated, they don't have to score a lot.

"They've got a lot of guys up front that make big plays," Connolly said. "They're definitely disruptive."



GAMEDAY

WEEK 12

TELEVIEWED GAMES



Cincinnati Bengals (6-3-1)
at **Houston Texans (5-5)**

AFN-Xtra

7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Tied 3-3.

Last meeting: Houston defeated host Cincinnati 20-19 on Dec. 11, 2011.

Notes: Last week, Bengals QB Andy Dalton completed 16 of 22 (72.7 pct.) for 220 yards and 3 TDs vs. 0 INTs for a career-high 143.9 rating. ... Texans DE J.J. Watt is one of two players in history with 2 TD receptions, an interception TD and a fumble-recovery TD in a season (Jay Arnold, 1938).



Cleveland Browns (6-4)
at **Atlanta Falcons (4-6)**

AFN-Atlantic

7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Browns lead 10-3.

Last meeting: Atlanta beat host Cleveland 20-10 on Oct. 10, 2010.

Notes: The Browns have won two of their past three on road ... In 13 starts with Cleveland, QB Brian Hoyer is 9-4 with 3,157 passing yards and 16 TDs with 8 INTs. ... Falcons WR Julio Jones has 35 catches for 466 yards and a TD in past his past five games vs. the AFC ... WR Roddy White has a TD in three of his past four games.

Marquee matchup

Detroit Lions (7-3) at New England Patriots (8-2)

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 3 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Patriots lead 6-4.

LAST MEETING: Patriots beat the Lions 45-24 on Nov. 25, 2010, at Detroit.

LAST WEEK: Detroit lost 14-6 at Arizona; New England beat host Indianapolis 42-20.

LIONS OFFENSE: OVERALL (21), RUSH (30), PASS (12)

LIONS DEFENSE: OVERALL (1), RUSH (1), PASS (5)

PATRIOTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (7), RUSH (13), PASS (9)

PATRIOTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (16), RUSH (14), PASS (17)

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Lions QB Matthew Stafford has 2,760 yards and 19 TDs in his past nine games vs. the AFC. He reached 20,000 career passing yards (20,136) in his 71st game last week, the fastest in NFL history. Since 2011, he ranks second in the league with 17,334 passing yards ... RB Reggie Bush had 113 rushing yards on Dec. 24, 2011, at New England (with Miami) ... RB Theo Riddick has a receiving TD in three of the past four games ... WR

Calvin Johnson has 14 receiving TDs in his past 15 games vs. the AFC. He has 91 catches for 1,634 yards and 12 TDs in his past 14 vs. the AFC. Since 2011, he leads the NFL with 5,657 receiving yards and 106.7 yards per game. In his past seven games, WR Golden Tate has 52 catches for 749 yards and 3 TDs, including five 100-yard games. ... LB DeAndre Levy leads the team with 96 tackles. He has 7 INTs since 2013, the most among NFL linebackers. ... In the teams' last meeting, Patriots QB Tom Brady completed 21 of 27 passes for 341 yards and 4 TDs vs. 0 INTs for a 158.3 rating. ... Last week, RB Jonas Gray rushed for a career-high 201 yards and tied a single-game club record with 4 TDs (Randy Moss, 4 TD catches on Nov. 18, 2007) ... In the past six games, TE Rob Gronkowski has 40 catches for 587 yards and 6 TDs. Since entering the NFL in 2010, he leads the league with 51 TD catches. Last week, he surpassed Ben Coates (50) and Randy Moss (50) for the most receiving TDs in Patriots history. WR Brandon LaFell has 5 TDs in the past seven games ... LB Akeem Ayers has a sack in two of the past three games since joining New England in Week 8. ... S Devin McCourty had 2 INTs (tied for career-high) in the teams' last meeting.



Miami Dolphins (6-4)
at **Denver Broncos (7-3)**

AFN-Atlantic

10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
6:25 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Dolphins lead 11-4-1, including eight of the past 10.

Last meeting: Denver beat host Miami 18-15 on Oct. 23, 2011.

Notes: Dolphins have won four of their past five ... In the past seven, QB Ryan Tannehill has completed more than 70 percent of his passes with 13 TDs ... Broncos TE Julius Thomas leads the NFL with 12 TD catches. He's the first TE in history with back-to-back 12-TD seasons.



Dallas Cowboys (7-3)
at **New York Giants (3-7)**

AFN-Sports

2:20 a.m. Monday CET
10:20 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cowboys lead 60-42-2, including the past three.

Last meeting: Dallas beat visiting New York 31-21 on Nov. 24, 2013.

Notes: Cowboys RB DeMarco Murray is the first ever with 100-plus rushing yards in nine of a team's first 10 games. ... Giants QB Eli Manning has started 161 consecutive games, the longest active streak in the league.

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Sunday

Green Bay at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at Chicago
Tennessee at Philadelphia
Jacksonville at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
Arizona at Seattle
Washington at San Francisco
Open: Carolina, Pittsburgh
Monday, Nov. 24
Baltimore at New Orleans

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Nov. 27

Chicago at Detroit
Philadelphia at Dallas
Seattle at San Francisco
Sunday, Nov. 30
Tennessee at Houston
Oakland at St. Louis
Carolina at Minnesota
Washington at Indianapolis
Buffalo at Baltimore
San Diego at Baltimore
Denver at Kansas City
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
Arizona at Atlanta
New England at Green Bay
Denver at Kansas City
Monday, Dec. 1
Miami at N.Y. Jets

New England Patriots running back Jonas Gray tied a team record with four TDs in last week's victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

AJ MAST/AP

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com

Also on AFN:

St. Louis Rams (0-0) at San Diego Chargers (0-0), AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 6 a.m. Monday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
New England	8	2	0	.800	323	218	5-0-0	3-2-0	6-2-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	
Miami	6	4	0	.600	249	180	3-2-0	3-2-0	5-2-0	1-2-0	2-1-0	
Buffalo	5	5	0	.500	200	204	2-3-0	3-2-0	2-5-0	3-0-0	2-2-0	
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200	174	265	0-4-0	0-4-0	2-5-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	
Indianapolis	6	4	0	.600	310	253	3-2-0	3-2-0	5-3-0	1-1-0	3-0-0	
Houston	5	5	0	.500	229	204	2-2-0	3-3-0	4-2-0	1-3-0	1-1-0	
Tennessee	2	8	0	.200	168	250	1-4-0	1-4-0	2-6-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	
Jacksonville	1	9	0	.100	158	282	1-4-0	0-5-0	1-6-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	
Cincinnati	6	3	1	.650	224	221	4-1-1	2-2-0	4-3-0	2-0-1	2-1-0	
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	288	263	4-1-0	3-3-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	
Baltimore	6	4	0	.600	261	181	4-1-0	2-3-0	3-4-0	3-0-0	2-3-0	
Cleveland	6	4	0	.600	216	195	4-2-0	2-2-0	4-4-0	2-0-0	2-2-0	
Denver	7	3	0	.700	293	224	5-0-0	2-3-0	5-1-0	2-2-0	3-0-0	
Kansas City	7	3	0	.700	241	171	4-1-0	3-2-0	5-2-0	2-1-0	1-1-0	
San Diego	6	4	0	.600	218	192	4-1-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	
Oakland	0	10	0	.000	152	265	0-5-0	0-5-0	0-8-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East	West	PA	Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
Philadelphia	7	3	0	.700	299	251	5-0-0	2-3-0	4-3-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	
Dallas	7	3	0	.700	261	212	3-3-0	4-0-0	4-3-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	
N.Y. Giants	3	7	0	.300	205	263	2-3-0	1-4-0	2-6-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Washington	3	7	0	.300	204	256	2-3-0	1-4-0	1-6-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	
Atlanta	4	6	0	.400	238	255	2-2-0	2-4-0	4-4-0	0-2-0	0-4-0	
New Orleans	4	6	0	.400	261	252	3-2-0	1-4-0	4-4-0	0-2-0	2-1-0	
Carolina	3	7	1	.318	215	300	2-4-0	1-3-1	3-5-0	0-2-1	1-2-0	
Tampa Bay	2	8	0	.200	194	279	0-5-0	2-3-0	1-6-0	1-2-0	0-4-0	
Detroit	7	3	0	.700	188	156	4-1-0	3-2-0	5-2-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	
Green Bay	7	3	0	.700	300	225	5-0-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	2-0-0	3-1-0	
Chicago	4	6	0	.400	215	290	1-3-0	3-3-0	4-3-0	1-3-0	1-2-0	
Minnesota	4	6	0	.400	181	220	2-2-0	2-4-0	4-4-0	0-2-0	0-3-0	
Arizona	9	1	0	.900	237	176	6-0-0	3-1-0	7-0-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	
San Francisco	6	4	0	.600	211	212	2-2-0	4-2-0	5-3-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	
Seattle	6	4	0	.600	260	215	4-1-0	2-3-0	4-2-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	
St. Louis	4	6	0	.400	185	258	2-3-0	2-3-0	3-5-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	

NFL

The bigger the better

Tight ends using their size to their advantage

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

RFOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Rob Gronkowski makes a twisting, leaping, one-handed catch.

The super-sized tight end swats away would-be tacklers.

He celebrates touchdowns with a powerful spike that, somehow, doesn't knock the air out of the ball.

"Imagine trying to cover that," said Tom Brady, whose defensive teammates with the Patriots only have to do it in practice.

It's a quandary NFL teams face against Gronkowski and many others in this era of big receiving tight ends.

"Every offense in the league wants a guy like that," said Tony Gonzalez, who helped usher in the trend during a brilliant 17-year career that ended after last season. "It is unguardable."

Top tight ends are heavier than defensive backs, often faster than linebackers, and taller than both. The eight tight ends with the most catches this season are all at least 6-foot-5 and 250 pounds. Just five years ago, only two of the top eight had that height-weight combination.

They're athletic and line up all over the offense — next to the tackle, in the slot, split out or in the backfield. Their wide wingspans and large bodies shield defenders from the ball.

The crackdown on illegal contact makes it easier to get open. And many play with outstanding quarterbacks who put the pass in the perfect spot: Gronkowski

(6-6, 265 pounds) with Brady; Jimmy Graham (6-7, 265) with Drew Brees in New Orleans; Julius Thomas (6-5, 250) with Peyton Manning in Denver.

"It's a big challenge," Tennessee safety George Wilson said, "week in and week out."

Graham leads all tight ends with 59 receptions. Gronkowski is tied for third with 53. Thomas leads the league with 12 touchdown catches. They often are double-teamed, making it easier for wide receivers to get free.

"It's a constant struggle," Broncos defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio said.

In none of the 13 seasons from 1994-2006 did tight ends catch more than a total of 2,000 passes, according to STATS. They've surpassed that number in each full season since.

Their 1,500 catches this year are more than the totals in all of 1994 (1,412) and 1996 (1,458), and they're on pace for the fourth straight full season of more than 2,300.

Gronkowski has some high-light-reel plays in this year's batch.

In last Sunday night's 42-20 rout of Indianapolis, he caught the ball at the Colts 20, was hit by four defenders, outran a fifth, then flattened cornerback Vontae Davis while leaping into the end zone for a 26-yard score.

"When you see the ball," the sure-handed Gronkowski said simply, "you want to go for it."

AP Pro Football Writers Barry Wilner, Arnie Stapleton and Teresa Walker, Sports Writers Brett Martel, John Wawrow and Bernie Wilson, and AP freelancer Gene Chamberlain contributed to this report.



AJ Mast/AP

New England tight end Rob Gronkowski, left, pushes off Indianapolis Colts strong safety Mike Adams after making a catch during Sunday's game in Indianapolis.

By the numbers

59

Catches this season by the Saints' Jimmy Graham, tops among tight ends.

12

Touchdown catches by the Broncos' Julius Thomas, tops among tight ends.

73.4

Average receiving yards per game by the Patriots' Rob Gronkowski, highest among tight ends.

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NFL

Peaking early not a concern for Packers

Efficient offense is just building momentum

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is playing at a high level for the Green Bay Packers.

Jordy Nelson, Randall Cobb and Eddie Lacy are a triple-threat to score.

Coach Mike McCarthy's offense is on a roll. It's hard to get any better than outscoring opponents 108-34 in the past two games.

But it's only mid-November. The playoffs — and the Packers aren't even assured yet of a postseason berth — are several weeks away.

A gloom-and-doom question looms among all the positive laurels on the sports-talk radio — Are the Packers peaking early?

"I don't believe in peaking early. I don't even know what that means, to be honest with you," Rodgers said Wednesday. "We try to carry the feeling and the momentum from previous games, and learn from

the mistakes we made, and we take it one game at a time."

Yet it's hard to dissect exactly what Green Bay has done wrong on offense, at least the past two weeks.

The Packers have jumped out to big leads on the Bears and Eagles, respectively, to turn the fourth quarters of each game into a glorified practice.

Such positive momentum builds confidence. McCarthy has said he does have to guard against overconfidence.

"The message of handling success is something we've talked about since Day 1," McCarthy said Wednesday. "Today we just focused on ourselves and the Vikings and try not to pay a whole lot of attention to the nice things you're going to say about 'em."

Nelson and Cobb are one of the top receiving tandems in the league. But what has helped the Packers become even more potent is the emergence of Lacy out of the backfield as a pass-catching threat.

The 5-foot-11 running back, who won the Offensive Rookie of the Year award last season, is quite capable of filling the role of the third option in the passing game following the departure in the offseason of veteran receiver James Jones.

The Packers are also still searching for consistency at tight end following the departure of Jermichael Finley, though the production at that position has picked up in recent weeks.

Lacy has 547 yards on 27 carries. He has 322 yards on 27 receptions — though 14 of those catches have come in the past three games.

Lacy has turned a short pass into a long touchdown in each of the past two wins.



AP photos
Packers receivers Jordy Nelson, top, and Randall Cobb below are one of the top receiving tandems in the NFL.



ROGELIO SOLIS/AP

Packers running back Eddie Lacy runs through Saints free safety Rafael Bush. Lacy has helped spark Green Bay's offense that leads the league points per game.

“When we get the ball out, whether it's a screen pass or dump-off pass and it's you and a corner, or you and a safety, you know I like those odds a lot better than running up the middle at linebackers.”

Eddie Lacy

Packers running back

“When we get the ball out, whether it's a screen pass or dump-off pass and it's you and a corner, or you and a safety, you know I like those odds a lot better than running up the middle at linebackers,” Lacy said. “But no matter how I get it, somebody's going to have to hit me.”

McCarthy has said those screen plays have been available all season. Only Rodgers doesn't always have to go to that option if he sees Nelson breaking down the sideline, or Cobb getting free over the middle.

“A-Rod is so smart. He sees a lot of things that I obviously don't know what he's looking at,” Lacy said. “His mind is completely elsewhere, and he throws it somewhere else.”

For as good as they have been of late, the

Packers are still tied with Detroit atop the NFC North at 7-3. The Lions beat the Packers in Week 3, so the Week 17 matchup at Lambeau Field looms large as a game that could decide the division.

All of which makes Sunday's game at Minnesota just as important to Green Bay. Another loss in the division could make all the positive vibes in the locker room disappear.

No overconfidence or complacency evident here.

“So as far as I'm concerned I don't expect any letdowns from any of our guys. We hold them to a high expectation,” Rodgers said. “But you have to guard against complacency, slipping into the locker room, slipping into your mind.”

By the numbers

19

Number of TD catches for Packers WRs Jordy Nelson (10) and Randall Cobb (9).

14

Catches for RB Eddie Lacy in the past three games.

He had 13 before that.

33

Points per game for the Packers, most in the NFL. They have topped 50 in the past two games.

SOURCE: NFL.com

STARS & STRIPES

SHOT

Of the Season

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SPORTS

**Always crummy**76ers lurching toward worst start in NBA history | **Page 52**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hole truth

Badgers' burly O-line paving Gordon's path to Heisman contention

BY GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

Instead of relaxing in a hot tub a couple days after setting a rushing record, Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon was doing another round of interviews.

Getting out of the routine was understandable after a 408-yard day on the ground against Nebraska vaulted Gordon near the top of the Heisman Trophy race.

But Gordon knows he could be feeling a lot worse this week. The offensive line for the 14th-ranked Badgers has been up opening lots of room lately for the star running back.

"They've been playing (well) and they never get the attention, everyone knows that — that's on this level, the next level," Gordon said. "The offensive linemen never get the attention they're supposed to get."

That's saying a lot, even at Wisconsin (8-2, 5-1 Big Ten), which has as much

of a history producing road-paving offensive linemen as it does record-setting running backs. A tough road game Saturday at Iowa is the next stop on Gordon's Heisman campaign.

For as wide as the holes might be at the line of scrimmage, it's hard to overlook what Gordon has done once he's gotten into the open field.

Standing 6-foot-1 and a sturdy 213 pounds, Gordon is virtually unstoppable when he's matched up one-on-one on a defender. Check the highlight reel from last week's game against Nebraska.

Gordon set a major college standard for most yards rushing in a game. And he didn't even play in the fourth quarter.

"Well, it feels good, but we're not going to sit there and pound our chest about it. We're not going to say, 'That was us,'" right tackle Rob Havenstein said. "If you watch the film and see what Melvin does, all we do when we do our job correctly ... we'll get him 7 yards."

SEE HOLE ON PAGE 58

Inside:

- Standout players being overlooked in ACC, Page 58
- ECU's Hardy closing in on catch record, Page 59

Behind another trademark bruising Wisconsin offensive line, Badgers running back Melvin Gordon has vaulted to near the top of the Heisman Trophy race.

MARK HOFFMAN
MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/TNS

Chicago seeking consistency on road trip
NHL, Page 55

Bengals get boost from rookie RB
NFL, Page 60

